174th Assault Helicopter Company articles and etc. found in the Americal Division Veteran's Association data base.

174th AVIATION COMPANY DOLPHINS and SHARKS

174th Aviation Company crest that appeared in the 14th Aviation Battalion 1967 yearbook.

174th Aviation Company Articles and related materials compiled from the Americal Division Veteran's Association (ADVA) database.

ADVA Historian for 2022 comments. Compilation documents have been made for veterans who might not have computer skills or time to search the extensive files for materials about their unit.

This document was compiled for veterans of the 174th Aviation Company (Assault Helicopter Company) and other Americal Division Veterans from the ADVA Historical Data Base.

A yearbook for the 14th combat aviation battalion was created in 1967 with a section for the 174th Aviation Company. There is also a yearbook from 1969 for the 174th Aviation Company that was located after several years of searching. And there was a 1970 16th CAG that has a small section for the 174th AHC. Electronic or printed copies may be requested from the ADVA Historian. Maps of the Americal AO are available, but not part of the compilation. Other general information that relates to all units of the Americal Division is in the ADVA data base. At the Wisconsin State Veteran's Museum in Madison, WI there is a UH-1C helicopter (#159) painted in "Shark" colors, just like it had been in 1970. I had a replica model helicopter of this helicopter professionally prepared in shark decals before it the team from the 174th got the Shark colors back on the helicopter. This plastic encased model is at the museum, but unfortunately has never been displayed.

John O'Sullivan received a DSC award. The DSC award is a representative award which not only honors LT O'Sullivan but the men who served with the 174th Aviation Company. The Army Aviation Association awarded LT John O'Sullivan with the "Aviator of the Year Award" which was presented by General William C. Westmoreland.

A group of 14th Combat Aviation Battalion pilots called "Three Majors and a Minor" sang songs at officer clubs in Vietnam. A CD with their songs is for sale on the internet these days.

It was a great loss to lose Jim McDaniel last year. He helped connect veterans with each other from the 174th & 116th AHC units with his web-site. He prepared an 88 page document for 174th AHC veterans which is available from the ADVA Historian.

A connection will always exist between the veterans who served with Americal Division to the 174th Aviation Company.

In 2020 a book from the 161st AHC entitled "Our Helicopter War" was published. There are many connections to the 174th Actions in this over 700 page book. The book is available online at the VHPA web-site or may be ordered through the 161stAHC web-site.

The 174th operated in Quang Ngai Province the birth place of Ho Chi Minh and Le Duan, the leaders in North Vietnam. It was the only province out of 44-48 provinces that the North Vietnamese/Viet Cong had claimed victory for. Vietnamese in other provinces thought the residents of Quang Ngai were rude, just as someone from New York might be viewed by a small farm community in the midwest.

Stanton Order of Battle Vietnam reference book documentation on the 174th Assault Helicopter Company.

174th AML (Air Mobile Light)/AHC (Assault Helicopter Company)

174th AHC gunship patch from 174th Web-site.

174th AML/AHC – Aug. 66 – Oct. 71
Departed Vietnam 8 Nov. 71

Unit size	1966	1968	1970
174th Avn Co	195	219	288

This information is about the battalion that the 174th AHC served under: The 14th Aviation Battalion was responsible for aviation support in the northern coastal region of II CTZ and initially was located at Nha Trang, moving to Qui Nhon on March 1966 as a part of the 17th Aviation Group. On 22 April 1967 the battalion was moved to Chu Lai as part of Task Force OREGON. In September 1967 it became part of the FALCON Aviation Group (Provisional) and became part of the 16th Aviation Group in January 1968. It then served with the Americal Division under that group.

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
Headquarters, United States Army Vietnam
APO San Francisco 96375

GENERAL ORDERS 30 March 1970
NUMBER 782

VALOROUS UNIT AWARD

TC 439. The following AWARD is announced.

By direction of the Secretary of the Army, under the provisions of paragraph 202rlg(2), AR 672-5-1, the Valorous Unit Award is awarded to the following named units of the United States Army for extraordinary heroism while engaged in military operations during the period indicated:

The 14TH COMBAT AVIATION BATTALION and its assigned and attached units:

Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment, 14th Combat Aviation Battalion
348th Aviation Detachment
534th Medical Detachment
14th Security Platoon
71st Assault Helicopter Company
151st Transportation Detachment
94th Signal Detachment
174th Assault Helicopter Company
409th Transportation Detachment
452d Signal Detachment
756th Medical Detachment
176th Assault Helicopter Company
411th Transportation Detachment
454th Signal Detachment
178th Assault Helicopter Company
400th Transportation Detachment

See the Citation on the following page:

The citation reads as follows:

The 14th COMBAT AVIATION BATTALION and its assigned, and attached units distinguished themselves by extraordinary heroism while engaged in military operations on 12 May 1968 in Quang Tin province, Republic of Vietnam. Demonstrating exceptional bravery and professional competence, the officers and men of the battalion gallantly extracted besieged friendly forces from the Kham Duc Special Forces came while under intense hostile fire. Severely threatened by an estimated two North Vietnamese Army/Viet Cong regiments, the camp had suffered heavy mortar, rocket and automatic weapons fire and numerous large-scale ground assaults and was clearly untenable. Although enemy gunnners were well-secured on strategic high ground positions in command of the airfield, aerial extraction of the defenders was necessary and the members of the 14TH COMBAT AVIATION BATTALION rapidly responded to the emergency situation. While a devastating rain of hostile mortar and machine gun fire poured into the path of oncoming helicopters, unit personnel expertly maneuvered their ships onto the runway and began evacuating the American forces. As airstrikes bounded enemy positions and gunships agressively supported the lift helicopters, the men of the command effectively completed a vital resupply of ammunition and continued to evacuate the hard-pressed troops. Despite severe damage to numerous aircraft, the determined aviators repeatedly entered the dangerous battlefield, ultimately evacuated the entire battalion and contributed immeasurably to the safety of seven hundred American lives. The extraordinary heroism and devotion to duty displayed by the members of the 14TH COMBAT AVIATION BATTALION are in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect distinct credit upon themselves and the Armed Forces of the United States.

FOR THE COMMANDER

GEORGE L. MABRY, JR
Major, General, US Army
Chief of Staff

UNIT CITATIONS AWARDED
TO 174th Aviation Company

SOURCE: Department of the Army Pamphlet 762-3

Unit Citation and Campaign Participation Credit Register
(1960-1978) Dated: May 1980

Awards:

VUA22 Apr 67 - 20 Aug 67 DAGO 43, 1972
VUA12 May 68 DAGO 43, 1970
RVNGC1 Mar 66 - 26 Mar 67 DAGO 22, 1968
RVNGC27 Mar 67 - 17 May 68 DAGO 21 & 46, 1969
RVNGC2 Nov 68 - 28 Feb 69 DAGO 2, 1971
RVNGC24 Aug 69 - 31 Dec 69 DAGO 42, 1972
RVNGC31 Mar 70 - 30 Jun 70 DAGO 42, 1972
RVNGC8 Feb 71 - 31 Mar 71 DAGO 42, 1972
RVNGC1 Apr 71 - 30 Jun 71 DAGO 6, 1974

ABBREVIATIONS:
DAGO: Department of the Army General Order
RVNGC: Republic Of Vietnam Gallantry Cross with Palm

Unit Citation
VUA: U.S. Army Valorous Unit Award

Comment: I am slightly surprised to see that there was no valorous unit award made for their participation in Operation Lam Son 719.

According to the Coffelt Database, there were 54 soldiers who lost their lives related to their service with the 174th Aviation Company in Vietnam.

This is information found on the 71st AHC web-site. https://rattler-firebird.org/vietnam

71st AHC veteran, Doug Womack, discovered that the 14th Aviation Battalion along with assigned and attached units was supposed to have been submitted for the Valorous Unit Award for actions during the Lam Son 719 operation, but due to an oversight, the submission never took place. In an attempt to rectify this error, he has wrote to Department of the Army and submitted extensive documentation back in 2005. In response to that contact, the award was approved and the VUA was approved for HHC, 14th Aviation Battalion. Only HHC, 14th Avn Bn was listed because the file was limited to active units, and HHC is now 1-14th Avn Regt at Fort Rucker. After again contacting DA, he was informed that the assigned and attached units included in the recommendation were also approved, and that a General Order confirming the award is pending a final review by the Army Center of Military History to insure that the lineage and honors for all units concerned have been properly represented.

Barring any deviations from the recommendation by DA, the 71st AHC earned the Valorous Unit Award, the unit equivalent of a Silver Star, for the period 8 February 1971 to 28 March 1971, during Operation Lam Son 719. Each member assigned and present for duty during that time frame is entitled to the award. Over 1,800 soldiers, veterans of the 14th Avn Bn and current members of 1st Bn, 14th Avn Regt, share in the award.

[Historian Note: Things were pretty hectic during operation Lam Son 719. The 14th Aviation Battalion S2/S3 reporting was suspended due to the intense fighting in progress. It is not surprising that the award documentation was not submitted... I have been advised that the valorous award was approved several years ago now.]

O'SULLIVAN, JOHN I.
Second Lieutenant (Infantry), U.S. Army
174th Aviation Company, 14th Aviation Battalion, Americal Division
Date of Action: April 1, 1970
Citation:
The Distinguished Service Cross is presented to John I. O'Sullivan, Second Lieutenant (Infantry), U.S. Army, for extraordinary heroism in connection with military operations involving conflict with an armed hostile force in the Republic of Vietnam, while serving with 174th Aviation company, 14th Aviation Battalion, Americal Division. Second Lieutenant O'Sullivan distinguished himself while serving as fire team leader of a helicopter gunship team flying in support of allied operations near Quang Ngai. Although under a continuous hail of enemy automatic weapons fire, Lieutenant O'Sullivan led an aggressive attack on three companies of enemy soldiers that were entrenched in a Vietnamese village. Repeatedly exposing his aircraft to intense enemy automatic weapons fire, he eliminated four enemy soldiers and destroyed two enemy bunkers. His aircraft was then shot down by intense enemy fire as he descended to a low altitude to provide cover fire for another downed friendly helicopter. After surveying the damage to his downed ship, Lieutenant O'Sullivan returned to the cockpit and flew the crippled craft to a nearby air strip. He then obtained another gunship and returned to the area to take command of the fire team. While covering the recovery of the downed helicopter, he eliminated five more of the enemy. Responding to an urgent appeal for assistance from another allied unit, he again braved intense fire as he assaulted three enemy machine gun positions. During this encounter, his gunship was damaged by enemy fire. Undaunted, he continued his aggressive assault, destroyed the enemy machine gun positions, and completely routed the enemy force. Second Lieutenant O'Sullivan extraordinary heroism and devotion to duty were in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit upon himself, his unit, and the United States Army.
HQ US Army, Vietnam, General Orders No. 3869 (August 21, 1970)

Retired Major Ralph E. Elliott III will be inducted into the Engineer OCS Hall of Fame

On 15 June 2022 at 9 a.m., Retired Major Ralph E. Elliott III will be inducted into the Engineer OCS Hall of Fame in the Regimental Room at Fort Leonard Wood, Mo. Major Elliott, while flying a recovery mission in a UH-1H, Huey helicopter, on 4 March, 1971, was shot down in the Republic of Laos near the headquarters of a North Vietnamese Division. He was accompanied by his co-pilot Lt Richard Gabauer, his crew chief Harold Brasket, door gunner Dave Smalley, mechanics Jim Watkins, Rumaldo Salinas and Mike MacFadden. During the three days and two nights of intense enemy contact, Lieutenant Elliott had called in 97 air strikes on enemy positions including a .51 caliber machine gun position and a fuel pipeline. The pipeline discovery culminated in a B-52 bomb strike only 2 miles from his location on an enemy fuel farm. All were rescued by South Vietnamese Rangers who traveled two miles over two days of intense fighting. All his men made it out without injury. When Major Elliott returned to CONUS he was awarded a Silver Star while stationed at Fort Leonard Wood and is the first person to be inducted into the Engineer's Hall of Fame since 2008, 14 years.

[Historian Note: Ralph E. "Butch" Elliott III was serving with the 174th AHC at the time he was downed in Laos]

From a Kham Duc Survivors Newsletter circa 2013:

Sam Davis- 174th AHC " Dolphins" Sam was the Crew Chief on "Dolphin-016" at Kham Duc. The Dolphins were the Slicks and the Sharks were the Gunships in the 174th. "Took out about 26 women and kids on an old "A" model (Huey) that could barely waddle out. We took 4-5 hits. On way back we got a call to recover crew of a shot down Aircraft".,,, "Before 12 May we flew into Kham Duc a lot working for "C" Co 5th S.F."

Per Unit History- "When the SF Camp at Kham Duc came under enemy attack in the 198th LIB's AO, numerous Dolphin Slicks were called to the scene to carry out emergency resupply operations

And the evacuation of their camp. WO John Donahue received the DFC when he twice landed to evacuate Kham Duc personnel while his ship was taking heavy automatic weapons fire and being hit by schrapnel from exploding mortar rounds".

Dennis Pelliccia- 174th AHC Dolphins ,who was at Kham Duc on 12 May 1968 "We flew in support of the ammunition resupply and emergency evacuation of that SF camp against the heavily armed NVA. My door gunner and I were awarded the Air Medal with "V" device and 2 Oak Leaf Clusters Our pilot was WO1 John Donahue, Both John and the co-pilot received the DFC's".

" WO John Donahue received the DFC when he twice landed to evacuate Kham Duc personnel while his ship was taking AWF and being hit by shrapnel from exploding enemy mortar rounds".

per 174th AHC site

Operation participation for 174th Aviation Company:

The 174th Aviation Company supported operations involving the 11th Light Infantry Bde. In addition they contributed greatly to critical operations for other units. The three that first come to mind immediately are: Operation Golden Valley where they performed heroically during the evacuation of Kham Duc in May 1968, receiving a valorous unit award. They were also critical in the Task Force Miracle operation in support of the 2/1st Infantry and 1/6th Infantry Battalions. They also participated in Operation Napoleon/Saline at Nhi Ha in support of the 3/21st Infantry Battalion. The last two operations were Marine operations that presented problems for Army units. The Marines were short on helicopters, artillery and other support during these operations. The 174th Aviation Company was able to provide much needed helicopter support at critical moments during these operations.

Operation Baker
TF Barker
Operation Champaign Grove
Operation Cook
Operation Finney Hill
Operation Golden Valley
Operation Iron Mountain
Operation Muscatine
Operation Russell Beach
Operation Lam Son 719
Operation Norfolk Victory
Operation Show Low
Operation Vernon Lake I and II
Battle of Vinh Hien

Additional operations may be added to this list as the research continues for this document.

Combat after action reports and named operation reports as well as Operation Reports and Lessons Learned reports exist in the Americal Division Historical Data Base that can be examined in greater detail. S2/S3 reporting is available online at AmericalFoundation.org and at the Americal Division Portal at the Texas Tech. online - Vietnam Archives web-site.

This section is made up of articles from the Army Reporter.

The largest Army newspaper in the world

THE ARMY REPORTER is published weekly under the supervision of the Information Office. United States Army Vietnam and is an authorized Army publication. The command newspaper has a circulation of 85,000 and is printed by **PACIFIC STARS AND STRIPES** in Tokyo, Japan.

Opinions expressed in this publication are not necessarily those of the Department of the Army. This newspaper utilizes the facilities of the ARMED FORCES NEWS BUREAU and ARMY NEWS FEATURES. Contributions are welcome and may be sent to: THE ARMY REPORTER, USARV-IO, APO 96375 or telephone Long Binh 4204/4311.

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30Jul66-**174th Aviation Co. Ambushes VC Ambush**

QUI NHON, (14th AVN-IO) - Using Viet Cong tactics, the **174th Aviation Company** killed 10 VC and destroyed their automatic weapons position seven miles north of here.

For several days a small force of Viet Cong had been shooting at helicopters from the **174th Aviation Company** which were flying rations and ammunition into remote outposts manned by elements of the ROK Capitol Division. Each day, armed helicopters were dispatched to the scene only to find that the VC patrol had disappeared.

Desperately seeking a solution to the problem, the **174th** decided to ambush the ambush. An aviator and two volunteers were airlifted into the area where they set up an observation post.

After two days of waiting they spotted the VC patrol getting into position.

When the next helicopter flew a supply mission into the outpost, the VC began to fire.

Armed helicopters, which had been orbiting out of sight were called in by radio from the small observation post. The armed Hueys arrived on the scene and annihilated the VC patrol before they had a chance to hide.

Subsequent supply flights have been conducted into the outposts without further enemy harassment.

Army Reporter:
30Jul66-**Photo Caption - ALERT AND READY -** A door gunner has his machinegun ready during a **174th Aviation Company** re-supply mission to an isolated ROK outpost. (Photo by SFC James Stuhler, USARV-IO)

ROKs - Army Aviators Combine to Smash Charlie

PHU TAI, (USARV-IO) -The evening's conversation centered on the day's combat assault missions. The men talking wore Army aviation crewmember's wings.

"You've got to hand it to those guys," one young machinegunner quipped. "They've got guts."

"You see how fast they head for that treeline? They don't waste time going after Charlie," a crew chief said.

"They know how to use helicopters," another war-seasoned crew chief added. "It's easy work with them."

The men they were talking about were the infantrymen they had helilifted into battle-Korean Tiger soldiers.

Atop a mountain pinnacle some 1500 feet high, a Huey helicopter on a resupply mission cautiously felt its way through the thin and dangerous air to a small landing pad. The pad was steep enough to prevent the helicopter from touching down so the pilot hovered, his rotor blades whipping through the air a few feet from the high side of the pad.

Crouching low, a half dozen Koreans ran to the chopper and began unloading ammunition, food and water. With the cargo on the ground, the Koreans waved their thanks as the pilot skillfully backed the helicopter off and swooped down the valley.

The combat assault and resupply mission took place on the same day by the same helicopter and crew. These missions are flown every day in the mountains here about 25 miles west of Qui Nhon. The area is thick with Viet Cong.

At Phu Tai, carved out of the side of a hill, sits a model heliport. From here the pilots and crews of the **174th Aviation Company** go about their business of supporting the men of the Republic of Korea's Tiger Division.

To handle his company's mission, Maj. Robert M. Stuart has 25 Huey helicopters. Eight of these are gunships and the rest are "slicks" that carry eight men to the fight. There are other aviation units supporting the ROKs and they are all typical of the 174th.

Each week **174th** helicopters average some 13,000 sorties. Besides the combat assault and resupply flights, they fly reconnaissance and liaison missions.

Most crew members agree that their toughest missions are the resupply flights in the mountains. More so, they claim, than the combat assaults.

Army Reporter:

06May67-**10 Cong Slain By Gunships**

AN SON, (1st AVN-IO) - Ten Viet Cong were killed and their automatic weapons position destroyed by U.S. Army helicopter gunships recently seven miles north of Qui Nhon.

For several days prior to the action, resupply helicopters of the **174th Assault Helicopter Company** had been fired upon by automatic weapons as they flew rations and ammunition into outposts of the Republic of Korea (ROK) Capital Infantry Division. Armed helicopters sent to the scene each time could find no enemy.

A decision was made to try to ambush the ambush. Three volunteers, Maj. Bennard R. Cobb, SSgt. Herman J. Grey and Sgt. Dexter Frisby, all of the **174th** were selected.

They were dropped into the area with rations weapons and binoculars. Two days later their vigil was rewarded.

They spotted a Viet Cong patrol getting ready to ambush that day's resupply run. Cobb immediately radioed the company and armed helicopters were sent to positions just out of the VC's sight.

Once in position, the armed choppers told the resupply helicopter to begin its run into the nearby outpost.

True to form, the enemy began firing as soon as they spotted the lone ship. But before they could hide, the gunships guided by Cobb, cut them down.

Army Reporter:
29Jul67-**REFLECTIONS OF WAR SHIPS-**Helicopters from the **174th Aviation Company** cast eerie reflections on a rice paddy north of Duc Pho as they swoop in to pick up infantrymen from the 25th Infantry Division's 3rd Brigade during an operation. (Photo by Sp4 Paul D. Halverson, 25th INF-IO)

12Aug67-**JUMPING OFF -** A familiar sight in Vietnam is infantrymen leaping from helicopters as they assault an area. This time it is the 25th Infantry Division's **Company B, 2nd Battalion, 35th Infantry** and the area is near Duc Pho. The men are in the 3rd Brigade, which is part of Task Force Oregon (Photo by Sp4 Paul D. Halverson, 25th INF-IO) ***(*Note the helicopter is from the 174th AHC (Dolphins)).***

Army Reporter:

26Aug67-**4th Inf Smashes VC Force On Banks Of Song Ve River**

DUC PHO, (4th INF-IO) -Pushing the routed Viet Cong forces to the banks of the Song Ve River, **4th Infantry Division's 2nd Battalion, 35th Infantry** massed three companies and the reconnaissance platoon to seal off enemy avenues of escape.

Tightening the cordon around the VC, the day-long battle left 65 enemy killed by body count.

The operation was prompted by information from a Hoi Chanh who stated that a large enemy unit was located about 19 miles northwest of here near the Cong Ve River.

Responding to the intelligence, the infantry men conducted combat assaults into the area to find and destroy the enemy.

Companies A and C and the recon platoon were the first to touch down. They deployed rapidly to encircle the enemy force.

In an effort to escape the grip of the infantrymen, the enemy began fleeing to the north.

Observation helicopters of the brigade's aviation section immediately engaged and killed six guerrillas and spotted what appeared to be the main force.

Flying over the area in the command and control ship, Lt. Col. Norman L. Tiller, battalion commander, informed the company commanders of the rapidly developing situation.

The ground troops were ordered to move north, pressing the fleeing enemy toward the Song Ve River.

Company A, 1st Battalion, 14th Infantry was combat assaulted to the west to block off the remaining route of escape.

With all paths of withdrawal blocked and the enemy contained, the three companies and the recon began closing in on the besieged enemy force.

Under the mounting pressure, many guerrillas attempted to escape to the river but were met by the devastating firepower of the gunships from the **174th**, 161st, and 176th Aviation Companies.

The choppers maintained an effective screen around the cordon while the infantry advanced.

Pushing in from three directions through thick, heavily vegetated hedgerows interspersed with trenches, bunkers, and spider holes, all three companies engaged the divided enemy forces.

With their control shattered, the guerrillas took to their underground hideouts. Carefully searching each bunker and trench the infantrymen dislodged the tenacious force.

Contact was broken by late afternoon and on the battlefield lay 65 enemy killed, 20 weapons, and large amounts of ammunition.

Army Reporter:

30Sep67-**Photo Caption - DUC PHO OPERATION -** A door gunner on a **174th Aviation Company helicopter** fires a burst from his M-60 machinegun at suspected Viet Cong positions. The gunships are supporting the 3rd Brigade, 4th Infantry Division on the coastal plains near Duc Pho. (Photo by Sp4 Eric Schmidt, 25th INF-IO).

Army Reporter:

14Oct67-**1600 Soldiers Air Assaulted In Operation**

CHU LAI, (1st AVN-IO) - Operation Benton a multi-battalion combat assault force from the Americal Division, placed nearly 1600 fighting men into fierce ground action on the first day of the operation.

Massive airmobile assaults planned and staged by the **14th Combat Aviation Battalion's** five assault helicopter companies (Note: this must refer to the **71st AHC, 161st AHC, 174th AHC, 176th AHC, & 178th AHSC** who participated) contributed over 60 aircraft during the first day of Benton. That day, 637 hours were flown, lifting the combat troops and 259 tons of cargo.

Assistant S-3 officer of the 1st Aviation Brigade unit, Maj. Derald Smith, called it "by far the most complicated assault operation we've run."

Final figures showed the 14th had lifted 12,256 men and 2046 cargo, flown 2804 hours, and evacuated 48 casualties.

In addition, the battalion's gunships had been credited with 49 Viet Cong killed and 125 enemy structures destroyed.

THe initial fleet of heliborne troops touched down in the lading zones (LZs) at 7:30 a.m. Intelligence sources reported the area was "heavily saturated with anti-aircraft positions and .50 cal. automatic weapons."

Another factor which concerned the flight leaders was the extreme care taken to prevent aerial reconnaissance of the LZs by aviation commanders. Only spotter-type airplanes had flown the operational area the day before so as not to arouse enemy suspicion of the assault.

All LZs were picked by map reconnaissance and verified by infantry battalion commanders and mission aviation leaders riding in the same chopper on the day of the assault.

Once on approach to the secreted LZs, conditions proved less than desirable. While a command and control helicopter was marking all LZs for landing, fierce sniper and automatic weapons fire opened up from wood lines.

Later, the LZs were found to be mined - one even had anti-helicopter devices. Another was filled with punji stakes and hostile fire was reported from most of the villages in the well-populated area.

However, ground commanders later said the gunships had drastically cut friendly casualties. Gunships from the **161st and 176th Assault Helicopter Companies** made repeated runs in support of the operation.

Army Reporter:

18Nov67-**Photo Caption-DOWN AND OUT-**Infantrymen of the **1st Battalion, 35th Infantry,** 3rd Brigade of the 4th Infantry make a heliborne assault west of Duc Pho during an Americal Division operation. (Photo by Sgt. Urrea Jones, AMERICAL-IO) (Note: Emblems on the noses of helicopters look like Dolphins from the **174th AHC**).

18Nov67-**Photo Caption-GOING IN-**Choppers from the **174th Aviation Company** prepare to extract soldiers of the 3rd Brigade, 4th Infantry after a search and destroy mission west of Duc Pho for the Americal Division. The **174th** recently received a unit citation for outstanding service. (Photo by Bob Towle, AMERICAL-IO)

Army Reporter:

30Mar68-**Task Force Barker Turns Tables on 3 VC Companies**

DUC PHO, (AMERICAL-IO)

-Infantry and cavalry units of the 11th Light Infantry Brigade's Task Force Barker, Americal Division, backed by artillery and air strikes, turned the tables on three Viet Cong companies in actions in the southern coastal section of I Corps recently.

The four-hour engagement left a total of 68 enemy dead on the battlefield by actual body count and five weapons captured. Units sweeping the area from a point near the village of My Lei to the sea were still rounding up prisoners and abandoned weapons the next day.

Initial Engagement

Company A was moving into the area on a routine operation aboard armored personnel carriers (APC) of **E Troop, 1st Cavalry,** led by 1st Lt. James Oley. The carriers halted to discharge troops shortly after noon, but before the men could disembark, the tracks were hit with rocket, mortar and machinegun fire.

"Two of the tracks received direct hits by mortars," according to SSgt. Bobby J. Brown, a **Co. A** squad leader, "They pulled into a circle facing four directions to let the troops out, and began shooting back with their .50 cal. machine guns and M60s.

Corporal Joseph N. Mason Jr., also of **Co. A,** was inside one of the APCs which was hit by a mortar round. He saw one of its M60 gunners get hit, took over the gun and continued to return fire.

Arty, Air Support

Support fire form the **6th Battalion, 11th Artillery** was called in to hold the VC battalion-sized unit at bay, and Air Force F-105 Thunderchiefs came in to blast enemy positions.

The 11th Bde's Aviation Detachment and Shark gunships from the **174th Aviation Company** arrived on the scene to cover the APCs and Co A's advance.

Ground troops and cavalry continued t o receive heavy mortar and automatic weapons fire, and more air strikes were called.

"In all, we called four air strikes by the Air Force and had helicopters on station over the area, three different times," Lt. Col. Frank Barker, task force commander, said.

Captain Patrick Trinkle, Co. A commander, in the field with his troops, was wounded by a bullet and shrapnel in the shoulder and legs at 2:30 p.m., but remained in command of his company until the enemy broke contact at about 5:30 p.m.

Search Continues

"The units were able to sweep the entire area to the coast and back," Col. Barker stated.

The search for enemy dead, wounded and weapons, as well as troops hidden in spiderholes, tunnels and bunkers continued until dark. Reinforcements from **Company B, 4th Battalion, 3rd Infantry** linked up with **Co. A** and the two outfits set up a perimeter defense until dawn the next day.

Artillery continued to provide covering fire throughout the night to check enemy movements, and an Air Force AT-47 Puff, the Magic Dragon aircraft equipped with Vulcan min-guns flew cover over the perimeter defense most of the night.

An ambush patrol by Co. B killed two VCs during the night, capturing one weapon and the two companies, with the APCs from **E Troop,** continued to search the area the next day.

Army Reporter:

08Jun68-**Americal Concludes Operation**

CHU LAI, (AMERICAL-IO)-Elements of the Americal Division's 11th Infantry Brigade recently concluded Operation Norfolk Victory in the mountainous terrain southwest of Quang Ngai City.

Recurring intelligence reports of Viet Cong supply channels and caches in the area brought the **1st Battalion, 20th Infantry** sweeping into the hills, supported by armored personnel carriers and helicopter gunships.

The report on the 12-day operation reads like a hardware shopping list as the companies uncovered numerous VC munitions stockpiles.

Tunnel and bunker caches yielded 131 individual and crew-served weapons, including two complete mortars: more than 4,000 rounds of small arms and machinegun ammunition: and 3,000 pounds of other types of explosives.

Other units operating on the fringe of Norfolk Victory had similar success. The 4th Battalion, 3rd Infantry, sweeping the area west of Quang Ngai, recovered 115 weapons from a single cache. A captured North Vietnamese soldier led one unit to another smaller cache.

08Jun68-Photo-Dust flies as ships of the **174th Aviation Company** land to pick up the first wave of a combat assault by the **1st Battalion, 20th Infantry.** The infantrymen opened Operation Norfolk Victory for the Americal Division's 11th Infantry Brigade. (Photo by Sp4 Kevin Howe, AMERICAL-IO)

Army Reporter:
04Nov68-**Vietnam communique**

Americal kills 136 in I Corps

Americal Div

Americal Division soldiers reported 136 enemy soldiers killed in heavy action during the week.

Heaviest concentration was centered in the southern portion of the I Corps Tactical Zone where soldiers from the **3rd Battalion, 1st Inf.**, 11th Light Infantry Brigade and supporting gunship crews reported 23 VC killed in one day's action.

Infantrymen from the 196th Light Infantry Brigade accounted for 18 VC killed in several contacts in the Wheeler/Wallowa area.

Elements of the 11th Light Infantry Brigade's **3rd Battalion, 1st Inf.** also uncovered a cache containing 7,000 pounds of rice.

In one day's major action gunship crews of the 14th Combat Aviation Battalion's **174th Assault Helicopter Co.**, flying in support of the 11th, killed 5 VC six miles south of Duc Pho.

While operating in the Operation Burlington Trail area, infantrymen from the 198th Light Infantry Brigade reported 15 VC killed in addition to finding a cache containing 125 grenades, 3,100 AK47 rounds and eight RPG rounds in a tunnel complex northwest of Tam Ky.

In another day's action, Americal forces killed 11 VC, detained seven suspects, and captured 2,250 pounds of rice in widely scattered action in the southern portion of the I Corps Tactical Zone.

The **1st Squadron, 1st Armored Cav.** reported five VC killed by artillery fire from the **3rd Bn., 16th Artillery** while firing in support of B Troop in the Burlington Trail area.

In action one day, the crew of the 11th Brigade's command and control helicopter, commanded by Col. John W. Bondalson, engaged and killed five Viet Cong in an area six miles south of Duc Pho.

The 198th Light Infantry Brigade accounted for 10 enemy killed in widely scattered incidents while the 196th Light Infantry Brigade accounted for five killed.

1st Avn Bde

....While operatingin the southern section of the I Corps Tactical Zone, the 14th Combat Aviation Bn.'s **174th Assault Helicopter Co.** has been credited with more than 30 killed in scattered action.

Army Reporter:
23Dec68-**Vietnam Communique** (Dec 3-Dec 9)

Americal Div

Soldiers of the Americal Division killed 194 enemy during a week of heavy fighting.

On Dec. 6 Americal forces and supporting tactical airstrikes accounted for 43 enemy killed in widely scattered actions in the southern portion of the I Corps Tactical Zone.

Brave and Bold soldiers of the 198th Light Infantry Brigade and supporting airstrikes reportedly killed 23 enemy in scattered contacts in the Tien Phuoc-Chu Lai area.

Infantrymen from the 196th killed eight Viet Cong in contacts in the Tam Ky-Hoi An area.

Americal Division units accounted for 32 VC and six NVA soldiers killed in scattered actions on Dec. 3.

196th Light Infantry Brigade soldiers working throughout the Hoi An-Tam Ky area reported 24 enemy killed in scattered actions throughout the day.

Infantrymen from the 11th Light Infantry Brigade killed 12 enemy as they operated in Quang Ngai Province. Four of the VC Were killed five miles north of Duc Pho by helicopter crews of the **174th Assault Helicopter Co**.

Army Reporter:

06Jan69-**Americal blasts N. Viets from northern positions**

CHU LAI - Soldiers of the Americal Division killed 161 enemy in two days of heavy contact throughout I Corps. In the most successful single action three companies of the **2nd Bn., 1st Inf.,** 196th Light Infantry Brigade set up a hasty ambush southwest of An Hoa and managed to trap and kill 53 NVA soldiers. Artillery and gunships helped in the action as they blasted the trapped enemy and hindered any escape from the ambush.

The action six miles south of An Hoa occurred on Dec. 18, as the three companies of the **2nd Bn.** moved out of a night defensive position in the triple canopy jungle and encountered an estimated 100 NVA soldiers.

With approximately 30 NVA soldiers killed, the enemy broke contact and ran north where they were blocked by **Co. A.** The enemy then moved southwest and almost two miles from the original point of contact and encountered **Co. D.** Airstrikes hampered the chances for an escape to the west.

Artillery and **gunships** were called in to finish off the enemy troops.

In scattered action the same day Americal Division troops killed six NVA and 29 VC throughout the southern portion of I Corps. Eight more bodies were found in shallow graves west of Tam Ky.

Elements of the **1st Bn., 46th Inf.** killed six NVA soldiers in one encounter seven miles south of Hoi An. Other of the battalion's units killed 14 VC in scattered engagement.

Twelve VC were killed in separate actions in southern Quang Ngai Province by infantrymen of the 11th Light Infantry Brigade. Soldiers form the 198th Light Infantry Brigade and supporting elements reported killing three VC in contacts in the Chu Lai area.

More heavy action occurred on Dec. 21. Americal Division forces reported 73 enemy soldiers killed and the bodies of 34 others discovered in scattered contacts in southern I Corps. Eight tons of rice were also uncovered.

Infantrymen from the 11th Light Infantry Brigade reported killing 34 of the enemy, while elements of the **4th Bn., 21st Inf.** discovered 12 enemy bodies and eight tons of rice.

Soldiers of the **4th Bn., 21st Inf.,** operating in an area approximately 20 miles west of Duc Pho, discovered 11 enemy bodies near a stream. The enemy had been killed by artillery fire. Another enemy killed by small arms fire was discovered on a hillside in the same area.

Continuing the search, the infantrymen came upon several huts in a clearing. Further investigation revealed eight tons of rice hidden within the structures.

A platoon from the **1st Bn., 20th Inf.** observed engaged and killed six VC along the Song Be River, 14 miles northwest of Duc Pho. At the same time chopper gunners from the 14th Aviation Bn.'s **174th Assault Helicopter Co.** reported killing three in the same area. Other 1st Bn. elements found the bodies of five VC in graves nearby. The enemy had been killed by small arms fire.

Other brigade units reported killing 25 enemy in scattered small engagements throughout the day.

The 198th Light Infantry Brigade reported their soldiers along with supporting elements killed 21 enemy in scattered incidents. Several VC were spotted by a division patrol west of Chu Lai. (Americal)

Army Reporter:
20Jan69-**Vietnam Communique** **Dec. 29-Jan. 6**

Americal Div

Americal Division soldiers reported killing 181 enemy in a week of intense action.

On Dec. 30 Americal forces killed 39 enemy, detaining 13 suspects and found one ton of rice in scattered actions.

Soldiers of the 11th Light Infantry Brigade accounted for 22 enemy killed in action this day.

Patrolling an area near a lakeside village 10 miles southeast of Quang Ngai City, an element of the **1st Bn., 20th Inf.** was fired upon by an estimated 16 Viet Cong. The infantrymen returned fire and called in gunships from the **174th Assault Helicopter Company**.

Army Reporter:
03Feb69-**Vietnam Communique** **Jan. 14-Jan. 19**

Americal Div

Americal Division forces killed 30 enemy in scattered actions on Jan. 16.

Soldiers from the 196th Light Inf. Bde's **3rd Bn., 21st Inf.** killed seven enemy in five actions 11 miles west of Tam Ky, while other brigade elements added three more elsewhere.

On Jan. 19, Americal forces reported killing 24 enemy in scattered actions.

Operating in the mountainous jungle around Tam Ky, elements of the 196th Light Inf. Bde.'s **2nd Bn., 1st Inf.** killed four enemy in three contacts.

Riflemen of the **3rd Bn., 21st Inf.** added three more enemy killed in actions northwest of Tam Ky, while a brigade recon patrol killed one enemy in the same area.

Gunship crews of the **174th Assault Helicopter Co.** teamed with soldiers of the **1st Bn., 20th Inf.** to kill five enemy in two contacts 12 miles northwest of Duc Pho. Other brigade elements accounted for one enemy dead.

Army Reporter:
24Feb69-**Vietnam Communique** **Feb. 3 to Feb. 9**

US forces kill 822 enemy
Americal Div

In heavy fighting soldiers of the Americal Division reported killing 222 enemy soldiers during the week.

On Feb. 5 the 11th Inf. Bde, recorded 37 enemy kills in scattered action. Soldiers of the **3rd Bn., 1st Inf.** killed six enemy in three contacts and found the bodies of five enemy killed by artillery in Operation Vernon Lake II 11 to 15 miles west-southwest of Quang Ngai City. Another battalion element killed one VC and found 6,000 pounds of rice five miles northwest of the city, while the command-and-control helicopter crew added four more in two actions 11 miles west-northwest of the city.

A recon element from the **4th Bn., 21st Inf.** inserted in an area 10 miles west-northwest of Quang Ngai City found the bodies of five enemy killed by gunships of the **174th Assault Helicopter Co.** one hour earlier. The unit soon came into contact with an enemy force in the area, killing seven in a firefight. Twenty minutes later, they killed four in another firefight.

A recon patrol form the **1st Bn., 20th Inf.** called in artillery fire on two groups of enemy 10 to 12 miles south of Quang Ngai City Feb. 9, killing 20. The 11th Bde. soldiers spotted an estimated 25 VC in the area on two different occasions and called for artillery fire.

Army Reporter:
10Mar69-**Vietnam Communique** **Feb. 17 to Feb23**

Reds deaths soar in attacks

Americal Div

In a week that saw Americal Division soldiers kill 302 enemy soldiers, the last day of the week again brought heavy fighting.

Division soldiers and supporting forces killed 160 enemy on Feb. 23, with troopers of the **1st Squadron, 1st Cav.** accounting for 75 and gunship crews from the **174th Assault Helicopter Co.** adding 50 more.

The day's largest action took place in the "Pineapple Forest" one mile west of Tam Ky as the cavalrymen battled an estimated enemy battalion generally within a 400-by-500-yard rice paddy area.

Shark gunship crews of the **174th** scrambled early in the morning to engage an enemy force one mile west of Duc Pho, killing 23 VC in the fight. Later in the morning, the Shark crews were in the morning, the Shark crews were called to a landing zone six miles north-northwest of Duc Pho, where they spotted an enemy force setting up rocket tubes in well-fortified bunkers. The crews reported killing 27 enemy and destroying 20 structures before calling in airstrikes.

Throughout the week, Americal elements found fairly sharp fighting in scattered actions.

Army Reporter:
10Mar69-**Accompanies RF assault**

Psyops team likes action

DUC PHO - Their sound truck broadcast Vietnamese music as Sgt. Gary Taylor and Spec. 4 Patrick Fleming, members of HB-9 broadcast team, **3rd Detachment, 7th Psychological Operations Bn.**, attached to the Americal Division's 11th Brigade, drove down Highway 1.

As they passed through an area three miles north of here they heard a barrage of fire behind them. They turned their truck around and headed for a spot along the road where 20 Regional Forces (RFs) soldiers were engaged in a fire fight with a VC force of unknown size.

They faced their truck at the fire and began broadcasting their Chieu Hoi message.

The RFs and PSYOP team moved out against the enemy positions until they reached a tree line. They then received a heavy cross fire.

Taylor moved back to his vehicle to try and call in support. Suddenly he started receiving rounds from the other side of the road; however, he was able to get his call for assistance through.

In a matter of minutes gunships from the **174th Assault Helicopter Company** and a track from E Troop, 1st Armored Cavalry were on the scene. Their supporting fire ceased the enemy's efforts and the PSYOPS team was able to drive on.

Army Reporter: 14Apr69-**Vietnam communique** **March 24 to March 30**

Sharp fights crackle across country

Allied and enemy units fought infrequent, small battles as action in the fifth week of the enemy Post-Tet offensive slackened. The enemy continued to hit U.S. Army installations with rockets and mortars, but friendly casualties from these attacks were slight.....

Americal Div

Americal Division soldiers reported relatively light and scattered fighting throughout the week, although the figures showed they had killed nearly 200 enemy soldiers by week's end.

On March 30, a major fight occurred eight miles northeast of Quang Ngai when helicopter gunners of the **123rd Aviation Bn.**, reported killing 26 VC.

In a day when 11 NVA and 23 VC soldiers were killed by the division, **3rd Bn., 1st Inf.** soldiers killed six of an unknown size NVA force in a firefight lasting more than an hour six miles north of Duc Pho March 29.

That same day, in an area 20 miles southwest of Tam Ky, a munitions cache was found by soldiers of the **4th Bn., 31st Inf.** It included 22,500 rounds of AK47 ammunition, 100 82mm rounds, nine 60mm mortar rounds and three B40 rockets.

On March 28, gunship crews of the **174th Assault Helicopter Co.** killed 13 enemy when elements of the **1st Bn., 20th Inf.** spotted an enemy force moving along a trail six miles southeast of Duc Pho.

101st Abn Div

Soldiers of the 101st Airborne Division killed 12 enemy soldiers and captured three weapons March 24 in Operation Kentucky Jumper. Patrols of the 2nd Bn., 501st Inf. soldiers killed three enemy southwest of Hue and 1st Squadron, 1st Cav. gunships killed eight enemy soldiers (This was D/1/1st Cav unit that later was re-united with the parent unit the 1/1 Cav attached to the Americal Division).

Army Reporter:
19May69-**Vietnam Communique** **April 28 - May 4**

Americal Div

Americal Division forces killed 55 enemy in several contacts in southern I Corps on April 28.

In Operation Frederick Hill gunship crews of F Troop, 8th Cav. killed 22 enemy with 16 of the kills in an action 13 miles south-southeast of Hoi An. Another element of the **1st Squadron, 1st Cav.** killed two more enemy six miles south-southwest of Tam Ky.

Gunship crews of the **174th Assault Helicopter Co**. reported killing nine VC in the rice paddy area two miles southeast of Duc Pho in Operation Iron Mountain.

The remainder of the division's kills came in small engagements dispersed throughout the Tam Ky Duc Pho area.

Americal Division soldiers of **Co. A, 1st Bn., 20th Inf.** uncovered what appeared to be an enemy classroom 11 miles southwest of Duc Pho April 29.

While searching the area infantrymen found six hooches, six bunkers, 16 targets with stands, two SKS bayonets, and five crossbows.

Division forces killed one NVA soldier and nine Viet Cong during multiple contacts in the division's area of operations the same day.

Army Reporter:
30 June 1969 - **Americal rips NVA in day-long clash**
DUC PHO - Americal Division soldiers of the 11th Brigade's **1st Bn., 20th Inf**., and two platoons of Armored Personnel Carriers from **E Troop, 1st Cav**., combined to inflict heavy casualties on an entrenched NVA battalion in a day-long battle, two miles north of Duc Pho.

The soldiers accounted for 29 NVA killed, the capture of 3 AK47s, 1 AK67, a .30 caliber RPD machinegun, and an 82mm mortar tube, base plate, sights and 15 rounds of ammunition.

Co. C, 1st Bn., 20th Inf. moved from their overnight position and began a sweep, moving from east to west, hoping to clear the area of enemy troops who had been harassing ARVNs and civilians working on a nearby rural development project. The company split into three groups for faster and less conspicuous movement.

The third platoon, the lead element, swept into an area that an NVA battalion was using for a grouping area. The enemy was entrenched on three sides of the open area and began firing automatic weapons and M79 rounds.

The second platoon pulled back and then tried to flank the NVA's positions from the east but were also pinned down by heavy and accurate fire.

"We were pinned down in a hollowed out area and every time one of us tried to move we were shot at. They were throwing everything at us and if it hadn't been for Jansky (Spec. 4 Raymond Jansky), we might never have gotten out alive," said Spec. 4 Gill Noe.

Jansky took up the story, "There were a couple guys wounded and they needed a dust-off but being pinned down this was looking impossible. I heard the APCs off to our right about 600 yards away so I crawled away from the others while they laid down a cover of fire.

"Crawling and dodging behind trees I made it to the APCs and directed them to the rest of the men still pinned down," Jansky continued. "The APCs laid down a base of fire which enabled us to get inside and then we evacuated our wounded to a pick-up zone."

To the west **Co. D** had been inserted by helicopters from the **174th Assault Helicopter Co.** to give support to its sister company. Another platoon of **E Troop** joined with the infantrymen who then began to push east toward the entrenched NVA who were keeping **Co. D** pinned down.

Staff Sgt. William F. Kelley told of his company's actions. "We left one platoon back with our packs and started our sweep. We received sniper fire the whole time we were moving so we began tossing grenades into any likely spot an NVA might be hiding.

"When we reached **Co. C,** they were pinned down by NVA firing at them from a trench to the north. As our company and theirs laid down a base of fire, SFC Robert Eickoff, the other platoon sergeant, and I crawled toward the trench."

Kelley shot one NVA and saw that others were hiding in holes dug back into the bank of the trench. While he threw grenades into them, Eickoff covered him. It was in this same trench that the 82mm mortar was found, by these two men.

Another company, inserted as a blocking force during the day, joined with Companies **C and D** in an attempt to cordon the NVA force. Sporadic fighting continued as darkness fell on the blood-stained battlefield.

Army Reporter:
07Jul69-**Photo Caption-**INTERESTING PATTERNS FORM when a time exposure is made of gunships bombarding enemy positions outside the perimeter of LZ Bronco. The gunships are from the **174th Assault Helicopter**.

18 August 1969 - **Soldiers paralyze attempt to cripple American camp**
LZ LIZ - Infantrymen from the Americal Division nabbed a VC reconnaissance patrol checking out their base camp, foiling an NVA sapper squad's plans to blast the American Base.

At about 1:30 a.m., soldiers from **Co. A, 1st Bn., 20th Inf**., manning the bunker line of Landing Zone Liz, four miles northwest of Duc Pho, spotted three enemy soldiers crawling near the perimeter wire.

Opening fire with their M16 rifles and grenade launchers, the Americans killed one of the three enemy soldiers and detained the other two for questioning.

At dawn, the VC suspects were flown to 11th Bde. headquarters, at Landing Zone Bronco. There they identified themselves as VC soldiers from a local reconnaissance patrol whose mission was to draw diagrams of the landing zone's defenses.

The three had been recruited for this task the evening before the incident by six members of an NVA sapper squad who asked the local soldiers to do the job for them.

Acting on this information, an ambush was set for the spot where the VC soldiers were to pass on their maps to the NVA soldiers. While infantrymen from **Co. A** waited for the enemy force to approach, helicopters from the **174th Assault Helicopter Co**., 16 Avn. Group, 1st Aviation Brigade circled over a nearby station.

"We fired at the hedgerows, trying to flush out any NVA or VC from possible hiding places," said Sgt. Donald A. Thorpe, a door gunner. "We killed one VC and chased another out into the open where he was detained by ground troops."

In another helicopter circling overhead was the brigade's air operations officer, Lt. Jack Kurtzman, who said, "We flushed one of the NVA sappers from a hedgerow and he started to run like hell. He managed to make it across an open area and into another hedgerow before we were able to catch him and kill him."

According to Kurtzman, the rest of the squad must have found out that the VC soldiers on the reconnaissance mission had not done their job and that the plan had backfired. "They never showed up for the meeting," Kurtzman said.

Army Reporter:

1 September 1969 - **Army-Navy combine against dock blaze**
LZ BRONCO - When a flash-fire recently erupted along the Sa Huynh dock sheltering the village fleet 12 miles south of here, Army and Naval support units rushed in to suppress the fire and care for casualties.

Within three minutes, two Naval pusher-boats and two Landing Crafts Medium were manned to capacity by volunteers and were on the scene extinguishing fires aboard numerous sampans moored to the dock.

Reaction for five Americal Division medics from the 11th Inf. Bde. who arrived aboard a helicopter with burn medicine from LZ Debbie was seven minutes.

Medics from **Co. C, 4th Bn., 21st Inf**. and fire trucks from the **19th Engineers** arrived shortly thereafter in response to a call for help from Capt. Robert Smith, company commander of Co. A, 4th Bn., 21st Inf.

Coordination between the soldiers and Vietnamese nationals on the river bank and the sailors working the fire pumps aboard the naval boats was superb.

Vietnamese civilians would point out a burning boat which threatened to ignite several others and the soldiers would direct naval craft to extinguish the flames and tow the stricken sampan away from the harbor area.

This three-way basis of understanding saved several boats and prevented possible casualties among the fishermen who were desperate to salvage their livelihood.

Recognizing the loss to the village was severe, Smith requested a civil affairs team from the Duc Pho **Detachment, 29th Civil Affairs Co**.

"The 15 to 25 boats lost probably represented the cumulative profits of several generations to the present owners," remarked Smith. "We hope Civil Affairs can help these people get back on their feet after not only their livelihood but their homes aboard the sampans were wiped out within 30 minutes."

1 September 1969 - **Vietnam communiqué - Aug 11-17**

Americal Div - Americal Division infantrymen, aided by helicopter gunships of the **14th Combat Avn. Bn.**, killed 38 VC and nine NVA soldiers Aug. 11 in a day of sporadic fighting throughout their area of operation.

In the largest contact of the day, track-mounted soldiers of **E Troop, 1st Squadron, 1st Armored Cav**., gunships of the **174th Assault Helicopter Co**., and ground troops of **Co. B, 3rd Bn., 1st Inf.,** fought an undetermined number of VC and NVA soldiers in an afternoon-long fire fight 20 miles north of Duc Pho.

The initial contact was made by **E Troop's** armored personnel carrier-mounted soldiers who fought and killed four VC ducking into a tunnel. Getting increasing levels of sniper fire as they advanced through the area, the soldiers called for gunship support and a chopper rolled in killing one VC soldier.

The track-mounted Americans killed another four VC in the contact and infantrymen following behind them killed three VC, bringing the total for the action to 12 enemy soldiers killed.

Several NVA sappers died Aug. 16 when they tried to slip through the perimeter wire of LZ Baldy, headquarters of the Americal Division's 196th Bde. 21 miles northwest of Tam Ky. Six were cut down while they silently worked their way through the wire. The seventh was killed 50 meters inside the perimeter before he could blow any of his satchel charges.

Army Reporter:
10 November 1969 - **Unit repels attack, outflanks ambush**
LZ BRONCO - Americal Division soldiers, reacting with only 15 minutes notice, turned the tables on attacking NVA soldiers, killing 12 of the enemy.

Infantrymen of **Co. D, 4th Bn., 21st Inf**., 11th Inf. Bde., were combat assaulted into an area two miles south of Duc Pho when a convoy, traveling on Highway 1, was hit with RPG and automatic weapons fire.

Landing on a ridgeline overlooking the enemy positions, the division troopers, with help from gunships of the **174th Avn. Co**., began laying down a heavy volume of fire on the Communists.

As darkness set in, the company quickly organized and began a flanking sweep towards the highway.

"We started popping hand flares as we reconned by fire down the hill," said 1st Sgt. James S. Berry. "Suddenly we spotted an NVA soldier crouching in the bushes about 10 feet away. He started to raise his weapon, so four of us opened up on him, killing him instantly."

When the sweep was concluded, five enemy soldiers lay dead and two AK47 rifles and six RPG rounds were captured.

Two enemy were killed early in the skirmish by a Light Observation Helicopter (LOH) flying visual reconnaissance for the convoy. The chopper, piloted by WO George Huggins, laid suppressive fire on both sides of the road until help arrived.

A sweep the next day by **Co. C, 4th Bn., 21st Inf**., turned up five more Communist bodies.

Army Reporter:

1 December 1969 - **Vietnam communiqué - November 10-16**

Americal Div - Infantrymen of **Co. D, 2nd Bn., 1st Inf**., Americal Division killed five enemy soldiers six miles northwest of Tam Ky on Nov. 10.

The same day men of **Co. D, 3rd Bn., 21st Inf**. directed Americal fire down on five enemy killing all five in an action 16 miles northwest of Tam Ky.

Nine VC were killed on Nov. 13 by gunships of the **174th Assault Helicopter Co**. after two battles 16 miles northwest of Duc Pho.

Elsewhere, soldiers of **Co. A, 2nd Bn., 1st Inf**. found 2,000 pounds of rice seven miles northwest of Tam Ky hidden in wicker baskets and jars.

Army Reporter: **19Jan70 Army Reporter Newspaper Page 3**
Army, Navy and Marines

Combined forces clear jungle

FB LIZ- The stretch of South China Sea coastland just north of Duc Pho was recently the object of a massive, 50-day land-clearing operation undertaken by forces of the Army, Navy, and Marines.

The "Strip" has long been a festering sore in the side of the agriculturally rich lowlands of southern Quang Ngai Province and had long been used as a spring board for enemy activity in the area. The fishermen who inhabited the coast were constantly harassed by the enemy.

The onset of the clearing operation had all the markings of the classic beachhead assault. The Recon Squad of Co. D's 1st Platoon, 1st Bn., 20th Inf., 11th Inf. Bde., Americal Division were "combat assaulted" by air onto the beach, 11 miles north of Duc Pho.

A thorough artillery preparation of the area by Btry, C. 6th Bn., 11th Arty., and an air prep by Shark and Dolphin teams of the **174th Helicopter Assault Co.** preceded the landing.

The two platoons secured the beachhead area and were followed by Navy flat-bottomed landing craft which brought ashore the first load of several large land-clearing vehicles – Army "Rome Plow" and Marine "Eimco" caterpillars.

Co. A, 1st Bn., 20th Inf., was moved onto the beach in a Chinook air movement from Chu Lai and assumed security for the clearing operations undertaken by the division's 39th Engr. Bn. Elements of Troop A and Troop E, 1st ~~Bn~~., 1st Cav., [***1st Rgt, 1st Cav***.] joined the operation later to assist in the land clearing and security of the men and machinery.

In spite of the often adverse weather conditions and enemy activity in the area, the men cleared almost 10,000 acres during the operation, an average of 200 acres a day.

Working with MACV and Vietnamese forces, the 1st Bn., 20th Inf. successfully relocated the civilians from "The Strip" to Highway 1, between the village of Van Truong and Tap An Bac. They have been provided with living quarters and an adequate supply of food.

The eventual goal of the land clearing operation is to deprive the enemy of its supply sources, collection points and bases of operation on the coast and to provide security for the fishermen and their families.

The Army Reporter:
06Jul70- Photo Caption Page 1
THE STACCATO SOUND of the M60 machine gun cuts through the skies five miles southwest of Duc Pho. The doorgunner on an Americal Division **174th Avn. Co. Shark gunship** provides the steady stream of fire for flank security during a rocket run.

The Army Reporter:
13Jul70- <u>Seven detained</u> Page 3

Child leads troops to Cong

FSB LIZ - Tipped off by a Vietnamese boy, a 6-foot-8 Americal Division soldier with only a bayonet recently detained seven armed VC during a rice hauling operation in the coast area 10 miles north of Duc Pho.

While transporting rice from a large enemy cache a Chinook received heavy sniper fire. Capt. Edward J. Mullen, commanding officer of **Co. C, 1st Bn., 20th Inf.,** 11th Bde., directed the first and second platoons in a search of a dense mangrove swamp where the shots came from. Shark gunships of the **174th Avn. Co.** prepared the area with rocket and minigun fire before the advance.

Spec. 4 Jimmie L. Dubose, Heralded as the tallest point man in Vietnam, inched his huge frame through the thick vegetation and found a small hamlet. Immediately, an 8-year-old boy began pointing at a fortified bomb shelter whispering, "VC." Dubose called to Spec. 4 Elwood Vincent for assistance before checking the bunker.

Dubose continued to cautiously search the area and came upon four 100-pound bags of rice. He sensed trouble and his suspicions were confirmed when his young Vietnamese friend began pointing to another bunker.

When he bent down to peer into the bunker, Dubose found himself face to face with an enemy soldier. The VC refused to surrender, forcing Dubose and Pfc. David L. Sowell to toss three grenades into the hole.

Brandishing his bayonet once more, Dubose squeezed into the bunker for the surprise of his life. Inside were six armed VC soldiers who had been protected from the blasts by a grenade sump.

With as much bravado as bravery, he pushed the enemy from their hiding place into the arms of his squad waiting outside the bunker. "It only took a few shoves and pokes from my bayonet to persuade the VC to leave," said Dubose.

Finding and detaining enemy soldiers is nothing new to Dubose. During his seven months in Vietnam, he has personally detained six other VC for a total of 13-an unlucky number for the VC in Duc Pho district.

The Army Reporter:
14Sep70- Officers jump ship during pilot rescue Page 3

FSB 4-11 - With a gunship down and enemy nearby, an Americal Division battalion commander, Lt. Col. Roger A. Culbertson of the **3rd Bn., 1st Inf**. attempted a rescue with his command and control (C&C) helicopter. The rescue was successful, but to make room on the C&C ship, Culbertson and his operations officer, Capt. Robert Graham, had to remain with the downed gunship.

Two Shark gunships from the **174th Avn. Co**. (Assault Helicopter), flying in support of the 11th Inf. Bde., had returned the fire of five enemy they had detected while on patrol near Duc Pho. On a resupply mission at the time, Culbertson used his C&C ship to airlift a nearby element of **Co. C** closer to the initial area of contact. The enemy's automatic weapons fire continued to be directed at the two Sharks, however, and while making a low pass over the target area, one of the gunships burst into flames.

Within minutes, Culbertson's helicopter was on the scene and Graham, along with Lt. Bill Brumley, Spec. 4 Leroy Wilson and the ship's two door gunners were placing the casualties on board. All around them, rounds were exploding as the munitions aboard the burning gunship were ignited.

With the nearest friendly element more than a half-mile away, Culbertson and Graham remained on the ground so that the entire crew might be evacuated.

Armed only with their pistols and a radio, the two officers waited nearly 20 minutes before Sgt. Stephen Ridnour and members of the **4th platoon** reached them. Reflecting on the situation, Graham commented, "I only hopped the colonel was a better shot with the .45 then I."

A sweep of the gunships' original area of contact revealed one VC dead, medical supplies and one AK47.

The Army Reporter:

28Sep70- Shark gunships cool hot LZs Page 1

FSB BRONCO - The Shark gunships of the **174th Avn. Co. (**Assault Helicopter) were recently credited with the cooling off of a majority of eight landing zones which went "hot" during a recent combat assault by the **1st Bn., 4th ARVN Regt**.

Five miles west of Quang Ngai City, 16 VC who challenged the landing of lift ships fell to Shark door gun, rocket and minigun fire.

The combat assault began in early afternoon with Dolphin utility ships transporting ARVN infantrymen from staging areas to LZs. A team of two Americal Division gunships, piloted by CWO Raymond F. Buza Jr. and, on the wing, WO Jeffrey W. Zavales, prepared LZs when necessary and circled above each flight providing security. "Then we found all kinds of stuff," recalled Buza.

Commented Maj. Fredrick G. Blackburn, commanding officer of the **174th Avn. Co.**, who was piloting the air mission control (AMC) helicopter. "We were working on intelligence sources and were prepared for resistance. It was believed that two sapper companies and a heavy weapons company were operating in the area."

Said Buza, "We had a lift inbound when we spotted VC running from the LZ. (CWO) James Call, who was flying a light observation helicopter started taking hits when he went in to check the area over. When the gunships rolled in to take a look, the VC broke cover, which gave away their positions."

During the ensuing battle, Blackburn was able not only to direct the landings of a reaction lift and direct gunships into enemy positions, but he was instrumental in the capture of eight VC by the ARVN staff officers aboard the AMC.

The Army Reporter:
28Sep70-Miami farm team? Page 8

Duc Pho Dolphins expanding

FSB BRONCO - Dolphins, other than the waterborne mammals, are the utility-ship platoons of the **174th Avn. Co**. (Assault Helicopter). Dolphins are also Miami's professional football team. In a recent exchange of letters originated by the company's commanding officer, Maj. Fredrick G. Blackburn, the gridders became honorary members of the unit and the Americal Division's 174th was brought a little bit closer to home by the union.

In his letter, Blackburn pointed to the unit's outstanding reputation as reflected in awards and honors accrued in its short history. "We take tremendous pride in the job we are doing and wish to share this sense of 'professionalism' with that that you have so capably demonstrated in professional football," the major told the Miami general manager. Blackburn further described the Dolphin bond as "a viable link with the men here and the many things that they have had to leave behind." The unit flocks to sports films and particularly to Dolphins highlights since a large number of the 174th are Floridans.

The major declared the Miami Dolphins football team and associate personnel honorary members of the 174th Avn. Co., and closed in saying, "Good luck in the coming season. The Duc Pho Dolphins are behind you all the way with our motto, "Nothing is impossible'".

A quick reply was received from Joseph Robbie, Dolphins managing general partner, "...we consider it a privilege and an honor to be declared honorary members...." Robbie said the game or highlight films would be forthcoming, and the unit would receive all future publicity material.

More good news was included for the Americal flyers, "Whenever you or any of your men are in Miami or in any city in which we are playing football, we will be happy to have you as our guests at the game."

Blackburn is planning to reciprocate by inviting the Miami Dolphins to a combat assault, but first he must figure out a way of explaining the addition of a professional football team to his morning report.

Copters kill 27 near Quang Ngai

Action involving U.S. forces dropped off slightly during the week ending Oct. 18.

Gunship crews from the **174th Assault Helicopter Co.**, supporting elements of the Americal Division nine miles south of Quang Ngai in southern Military Region I Oct. 13, killed 27 enemy soldiers in the largest engagement of the week.

In Military Region 3's Run Sat Special Zone that same day, Maddogs of the 240th Avn. Co., 22nd Combat Support Avn. Bn., were credited with the deaths of 22 Viet Cong while on a routine insertion of ARVN troops 16 miles northwest of Vung Tau. The crews also destroyed 12 structures and one sampan.

Americal Division

Americal Division soldiers of the **Co. C, 1st Bn., 52nd Inf**., **Ready Rifles** engaged an estimated enemy platoon resulting in eight enemy killed and two crew-served weapons captured Oct. 13. Helicopter gunships supporting the action were credited with three additional enemy deaths.

Division soldiers operating in Military Region 1's Quang Ngai Province uncovered two rice caches Oct. 15. **Ready Rifles** of **Co. D, 1st Bn., 52nd Inf**., uncovered 10.8 tones of rice nine miles northwest of Quang Ngai City. Eleven miles southeast of the city, a tone of rice was found by **Syke's Regulars** of **Co. B, 1st Bn., 20th Inf**.

Division soldiers found a rice cache 10 miles southwest of Quang Ngai City Oct 18. Men of **Co. B, 1st Bn., 20th Inf**., uncovered the four tons of rice.

23rd Inf Div blasts enemy platoon (Americal)

As the rainy season pounded the northern quarter of the Republic during the third week in October, contact with the enemy-concentrated in Military Regions 1 and 4-dropped off slightly.

The largest action of the week involved forces of the 23rd Infantry Division in an area nine miles northwest of Quang Ngai City in southern Military Region 1 Oct. 19.

Division troopers engaged an estimated enemy platoon, killing 26 Communist soldiers, detaining 10 suspects and capturing 10 individual weapons. Men of **Co. D** and the **recon platoon, 1st Bn., 52nd Inf.,** were supported during the battle by elements of the **174th Assault Helicopter Co**.

23rd Inf Div

Gunners of the 23rd (Americal) Infantry Division's **Btry. C, 3rd Bn., 16th Arty**., supported by ARVN artillery, engaged an enemy force of undetermined size Oct. 21 and killed 10 enemy soldiers. The action took place 19 miles southwest of Tam Ky in southern Military Region 1.

Americal troopers discovered a large enemy rice cache at dusk Oct. 25. Five tons of rice were found two miles south-southeast of Duc Pho in Quang Ngai Province by soldiers from **Co. B, 4th Bn., 21st** Inf. The locally grown, unpolished rice was in good condition and was extracted.

Army Reporter:

07Dec70- Ready Rifles destroy 26, detain 9 Page 1

CHU LAI - In their second major engagement in a week, infantrymen from the 23rd Infantry Division's **1st Bn., 52nd Inf**., 198th Inf. Bde., combined with gunships from the **174th Avn. Co**. to kill 26 enemy soldiers, wound and capture four, detain five, and destroy a Viet Cong training site south of here.

Elements of **Echo Recon and Co. D** started the mission as a routine check of a village reportedly harboring enemy activity. It turned out to be a major operation which destroyed an enemy force.

Echo Recon combat assaulted into an area outside the village and broke up into three-man groups to cordon the entire area. Sgt. Douglas C. Eldridge, acting platoon leader, took his element down a small trail. When an NVA soldier popped out of a spider hole on the edge of the trail and aimed his rifle at the small unit, Eldridge shot a three-round burst and killed the enemy.

A nearby group heard the firing and approached to lend support. Sgt. Thomas Hazelhorst spotted another NVA trying to escape to a small river. His unit pursued and detained the enemy after he had been wounded by an M79 grenade round.

Meanwhile, Maj. Charles E. Getz, battalion commander and director of the operation, had spotted another concentration of enemy nearby. **Echo Recon** was again on the move. the Ready Rifles were inserted into the enemy location and immediately produced results.

Four Viet Cong were killed even before the last helicopter had time to leave. After being inserted with the **recon** unit, Spec. 4 Michael McPeters killed two enemy as he hit the ground while firing both grenades and rifle rounds from his new over-and-under M16/M79. Eldridge and Hazelhorst also killed one each.

Spec. 4 Charles Todd, spotting a Viet Cong carrying a rifle trying to evade the barrage of firepower, pursued the VC almost 1,000 yards before capturing his foe. The VC had hidden his weapon in the pursuit, but showed Todd where to find the weapon on the way back to the rest of the element.

Again Getz, hovering over the area in his helicopter, spotted a large concentration of enemy soldiers only 300 yards from the fighting. He joined the ground troops to lead the attack on the enemy position.

A platoon of **Delta** started its move to the link-up point and **Echo Recon** did the same. Gunships were already on station and had the enemy's back covered. The only way the enemy could move was into the teeth of the converging elements.

The linkup was successfully made at the point desired and the combined elements assaulted the trapped enemy. Hazelhorst found three Viet Cong killed by gunships. Two more enemy fled at the sight of the approaching element, and Hazelhorst's men brought them down.

The gunships had expended their ammunition, but another **platoon of C. Co**, **D** was inserted to serve as a blocking force. As the attack continued, **Delta** killed three Viet Cong, **Echo Recon** wiped out seven more who were hiding in spider holes.

When the last shot had been fired, **Echo Recon** was credited with 14 enemy kills, the **gunships nine**, and **Delta** company three.

23rd Inf Div

In there southern Military Region 1 area of operations Nov. 22, elements of the 23rd Infantry Division killed a total of 21 enemy soldiers and found two cache sites in four separate actions.

Ten miles northwest of Quang Ngai City, men of **Co. D, 1st Bn., 52nd Inf**., and air crews of the **174th Assault Helicopter Co**. flew into three landing zones. Contact with an enemy force was made at each landing zone, leaving a total of 11 enemy killed and seven individual weapons captured.

Thirteen miles northwest of Duc Pho, soldiers of **Co. C, 4th Bn., 3rd Inf**., were credited with the deaths of 10 enemy soldiers and the capture of one individual weapon, one grenade and four RPG rounds.

In other 23rd Infantry Division operations that day, men of **Co. A, 4th Bn., 31st Inf**., found three tons of corn piled on the ground in an open area nine miles southwest of An Hoa. The corn was in good condition and was evacuated.

Later in the same day, the same unit was responsible for finding a cache containing two 122mm rockets, one 82mm mortar, one RPG launcher, 500 Chicom grenades, three 7.62mm light machine guns and 30 60mm mortar rounds, All items were in good condition and were evacuated.

Careless VC lose 12 to 1st Cav.....

23rd Inf Div

In southern Military Region 1, Nov. 25, elements of the 23rd Infantry Division killed nine enemy soldiers in three separate actions.

Captured in the operation so far: 7,000 pounds of corn, 2,700 pounds of rice, 508 Chicom (Chinese Communist) grenades, 140 pounds of plastic explosives, six Chinese light machine guns, 14 122mm rockets, 52 60mm mortar rounds, 12 105mm artillery rounds, two complete 82mm mortars, two
82mm mortar rounds, 17 75mm recoilless rifle rounds, three SKS rifles, six AK47 rifles, 1,000 rounds of AK47 ammunition, two 9mm pistols and 800 blasting caps.

In Military Region 1 Nov. 27, 23rd Infantry Division soldiers found a cache containing eight tons of salt. The discovery was made by **Co. A, 1st Bn., 46th Inf**., seven miles southwest of Tam Ky in Quang Tin Province. The salt was evacuated.

In operations Nov. 24, men of **Co. C, 1st Bn., 52nd Inf**., found a cache 14 miles northwest of Quang Ngai City containing 1.1 tons of rice, which was also evacuated.

North of Duc Tho [Pho?], Shark gunships of the **174th Assault Helicopter Co**. engaged several Viet Cong, killing five.

While on visual reconnaissance mission for the **2nd Bn., 1st Inf**., a soldier of the 196th Inf Bde. observed three NVA soldiers northwest of Tam Ky. Infantrymen engaged the enemy with small arms fire, killing all three.

Men of **Co. C**, **1st Bn., 46th Inf**., engaged two enemy southwest of Tam Ky, killing one of them.

Three companies from the **4th Bn., 31st Inf**., combed triple-canopy jungles along a river gorge for more food and ammunition to add to the tons of booty already discovered.

In a week-long probing operation of a canyon area 31 miles east northeast of Tam Ky, 23rd Infantry Division soldiers uncovered a large enemy cache in Military Region 1 Nov. 23.

Reportedly the cache site appeared to have been a staging ground for future enemy drives farther east in South Vietnam. Most of the captured supplies were hidden in bunkers and caves along the Phu Bon River, which is a major north-south water route. Several tunnel complexes dot the vicinity being explored.

Army Reporter:
11Jan71- <u>In ground, air action</u> Page 1

11 enemy fall to 23rd unit

LZ STINSON -- Eleven Viet Cong were killed and seven enemy weapons captured as a company of the 23rd Infantry (Americal) Division's 198th Inf. Bde. teamed up with helicopter gunships in a combined air and ground attack on several preselected enemy locations south of Chu Lai.

Co. D. 1st Bn., 52nd Inf., employed one platoon to make aerial insertions into two suspected enemy locations while the rest of the company acted as a ground force to check out another site.

The helicopter-borne rifle platoon drew a blank card on its first insertion, but on the second insertion things quickly improved.

"We had just made our second landing when I received word over the radio that gunships had spotted two Viet Cong entering a bunker near our position," said Lt. Daniel J. Boccolucci, the platoon leader. "We began moving in that direction until we found the bunker complex."

The platoon was then inserted to beef up the main element of **Delta Company**, which had already made contact with another enemy force. Three Viet Cong were spotted trying to escape to a nearby woodline from a small hamlet. One of the enemy was killed as the infantrymen engaged the fleeing Viet Cong with small arms fire.

One squad from the Ready Rifles pursued the other two enemy into the woodline. Spec. 4 Larry Taylor heard a shot from an AK47 crack behind him and turned around to see two Viet Cong hiding in a foxhole. With a quick burst from his M16, Taylor brought down both enemy soldiers and captured the weapon.

By that time, the Ready Rifles were receiving sporadic fire from the area of contact. A sweep was organized as gunships from the **174th Avn. Co**. pounded the area with rocket and minigun fire. The infantrymen fired into the area as they moved across the sparsely vegetated terrain.

As the sweep continued, the infantrymen found one Viet Cong killed by the gunships and five more killed by their ground fire. Five more enemy weapons were taken from the area.

In all, 11 Viet Cong were killed and the Ready Rifles captured two AK47 rifles, one SKS rifle, one grenade launcher, one carbine, one automatic weapon, and a .45-caliber pistol. All the weapons were extracted to a nearby landing zone.

"The plan worked without a flaw," said Capt. Perry Kaiszer, the company commander. "And the men reacted quickly to each engagement. I think it's a tribute to the company that the men accomplished this mission without sustaining one casualty in the entire operation."

5th Mech kills 28 near DMZ.....

23rd Inf (Americal) Div

Soldiers from the 23rd Infantry Division killed eight enemy soldiers Jan. 11 in the division's Military Region 1 area of operation. Troops from the division's 198th Inf. Bde. killed three enemy, detained six suspects and captured 500 pounds of spoiled rice in operations near Chu Lai. Elements of the 11th Inf. Bde. killed four enemy troops west of Duc Pho.

Soldiers from the 23rd killed 10 enemy soldiers and captured 1,000 pounds of corn in the division's area of operation in Military Region 1 Jan. 12. In the 196th Inf. Bde., men from **Co. C, 2nd Bn., 1st Inf**., killed two North Vietnamese Army soldiers near their night defensive position southwest of Da Nang. **Co D, 4th Bn., 31st Inf**., killed two enemy soldiers west of Tam Ky. Air crews from the **174th Aviation Co.** killed four enemy southwest of Quang Ngai City in the 11th Inf. Bde.'s operations area. Elsewhere in the brigade's area, soldiers from **Co. D, 4th Bn., 3rd Inf**., discovered 1,000 pounds of corn in an enemy structure. The corn was evacuated. Other brigade elements killed another enemy soldier. Gunship crews of the **123rd Aviation Co**. flying in the 198th Inf. Bde. area of operation killed one enemy soldier south of Chu Lai.

In Quang Tin Province of Military Region 1 the evening of Jan. 14, 45 miles west of Chu Lai, one round of 81mm mortar fire by a unit of the 196th Bde. fell short and landed on an artillery unit of the same division killing one U.S. soldier and wounding seven others. The incident is under investigation.

In the afternoon of Jan. 14, an element of the 198th Bde. discovered a two-ton enemy munitions cache stored in a hut 25 miles west of Tam Ky. All items in the cache were evacuated.

An element of the 198th Bde., while on patrol seven miles northwest of Quang Ngai City early the afternoon of Jan. 17, spotted and engaged eight enemy soldiers with small arms fire. Five enemy soldiers were killed and one individual weapon was captured. There were no U.S. casualties in the engagement.

In the south of Military Region 1, in Quang Ngai Province at about noon Jan. 16, helicopters of the 23rd engaged an undetermined-size enemy force with on-board ordnance while on a visual reconnaissance mission 25 miles west-southwest of Quang Ngai City.

About two hours later helicopters of the division again engaged another undetermined-size enemy force in an area two miles farther south. Total enemy losses in both engagements were 13 killed. There were no friendly casualties. (Note: **B/123rd Avn** was the helicopter unit).

Also in Quang Ngai Province early Jan. 17, an element of the 198th Bde. received small arms and rifle-grenade fire from an undetermined size enemy force while operating six miles west-northwest of Quang Ngai City. Enemy losses were six killed and two individual weapons captured. There were no friendly casualties. ***[Historian Note: based on the TOC report for 17JAN71 this was probably A 1/52 Inf. Bn. A 1/52 raid recorded 6 kills, and C 1/52 patrol recorded 5 kills, E 1/52 tripped a booby trap requiring medevac of 8 seriously wounded men]***

Military Region 1

In action Jan. 12, one U.S. soldier was killed and five wounded in a booby trap incident in Thua Thien Province.

In Quang Nam Province a tracked vehicle of the 108th Field Artillery Gp. detonated a mine Jan. 17 seven miles north-northwest of An Hoa killing two U.S. soldiers and wounding eight others.

Jan. 16, a U.S. Army OH6 helicopter was hit by enemy ground fire, crashed and was destroyed in Thua Thien Province. There was one U.S. wounded in the action.

On Jan. 17, an OH6 went down in Thua Thien Province, wounding one U.S. crewman.

Army Reporter:
08Mar71 **Sharks have eyes** Page 12

FSB LIZ - While operating in the Iron Mountain region, 11th Inf. Bde. Jungle Warriors engaged and killed two NVA, and **Shark gunships** were credited with an additional two enemy killed.

"I had split the company for extraction," recalled Capt. James D. Davidson, **CO of Bravo Company, 1st Bn., 20th Inf.** "We were waiting for extraction when we got word that gunships of the 174th Assault Helicopter Company had sighted and engaged two NVA with weapons."

The 11 men of the company and 2nd platoon were extracted and immediately dropped into the contact area, said Lt. Thomas H. Glover, the company's forward observer.

The infantrymen advanced on the woodline and found the two NVA bodies. "I was talking to the **Shark** and trying to coordinate our movements," said Pfc. Leonard B. Smith, a radio operator. "The Shark pilot said our people had found the two NVA, and he informed me that he saw two more crawling in the treeline."

Smith forwarded this information to Davidson who, with the aid of Lt. Frank Korona, advanced on the NVA, engaging with them with hand grenades and small arms fire, killing both.

Army Reporter:
12Apr71- **Combined effort rescues 7 Page 1**

KHE SANH - Seven downed crewmen of the 23rd (Americal) Infantry Division's **174th Avn. Co.,** their aircraft brought down by enemy ground fire, were rescued from deep inside enemy-occupied territory in Laos after an overnight extraction operation by the 2nd Squadron, 17th Cav., 101st Airborne Division (Airmobile), and the squadron's attached Hac Bao (Black Panther) Ranger Co., ARVN 1st Inf. Div.

AH1 Cobra gunships of the 17th Cav., along with Air Force Navy and Marine fighters provided cover fire as UH1 Hueys piloted by men of the squadron inserted three platoons of the elite Hac Bao amidst heavy enemy ground fire some 10 miles inside Laos, after the stranded Americans had contacted friendly forces by survival radio.

The seven had weathered a night of hiding in the bush under the nose of a suspected battalion-size NVA force and had made their way to an abandoned enemy machinegun pit.

"It was a completely successful rescue," said Maj. James Newman, who piloted the lead ship in the insertion. "Several Cav ships received enemy fire," he said.

The squadron's commanding officer, Lt. Col. Archie Rider, directed the Cav. operation from the air, along with Maj. Jack Clark, Newman and Hac Bao Commander Capt. Hoang Doan.

"It was some of the closest firing I've ever done," said Alpha Troop Cobra pilot Lt. Douglas Terry. Enemy targets, he said were sometimes as close as 50 yards to the Hac Bao.

Army Reporter:
19Apr71- **One extraction leads to others in Laos Page 1**

QUANG TRI - "I knew we were going down," Capt. Donald A. Peterson recalled. "I leveled the craft and looked to see where we were going to hit and jerked the controls to slow our fall.

Peterson recounts the crash of his Huey helicopter, a crash that left him and his three-man crew stranded on a Laotian hillside 15 miles west of the American base at Khe Sanh for more than three hours.

Units of the 1st ARVN Regiment were being moved back across the border from LZ Brown and helicopters of the **14th Aviation Bn**. ***[Historian Note: This was likely a pilot from the 174th AHC]*** had been called in to complete the extraction.

"We had all the troops out when the last chopper out radioed that a litter patient had been left behind," Peterson, aircraft commander, recalled.

"When we started down, everything went real fine until we got to the edge of the PZ and I threw the ship into a flare maneuver to come to a stop," he continued. "That's when we started to receive heavy AK47 fire."

"There was a big explosion under the ship just before we started to go down, noted the door gunner, Pfc. Jimmy L. Graham.

"We took hits in the transmission and there was hydraulic and transmission fluid pouring all over me. With all that red liquid running down my flight suit, I thought I was hit."

"When we went down I wasn't really thinking about anything, because my M60 had jammed and I was working on that," said Spec. 4 Darold A. Berger, the crew chief.

"When I saw we were going to crash I reached for my M16 and the next thing I knew we were surrounded by green. I climbed out of the bird without much difficulty because Graham and I were ready to jump out of the bird to get the wounded ARVN we were after."

"The four of us lay low outside the chopper for a few minutes," Peterson said. "Then I reached inside and switched off all electrical equipment and we made our way through the trees and bushes to within 50 feet of a dried-up creek bed at the bottom of the slope.

"I turned on my survival radio and called for help for about 10 minutes," he continued, "but nobody answered so I turned on the beeper distress signal and about five minutes later we made contact with a chopper.

"I told him we didn't know the exact location and they radioed that they were trying to get a dustoff for us. Then we broke off commo."

The Americal chopper crew tried to remain concealed in a thicket. As they lay there, Berger spotted an armed NVA soldier walking down the creek bed about 50 yards from them.

"He walked by us," Peterson explained, "but when he was 20 or 30 feet from us he turned around and looked up and it was quite obvious he realized things weren't quite right."

"I was actually praying that the NVA wouldn't spot us because I didn't want to shoot him, figuring he was a point man for a large patrol," Graham said.

But the enemy troop didn't budge and the Americans kept their rifles trained on him all the while. When he started to raise his weapon, they opened fire on him.

"After that it seemed like an eternity," Peterson continued, "the chopper came back and I popped another pin flare. By that time I could see him circling and popped another flare and he rolled in."

(Continued)

"After we killed him we moved back up to the aircraft and sat there for a couple of hours while I continued to call over the radio," Peterson said.

The whirl of approaching helicopter blades lifted the crew's spirits as Peterson picked up a call from the pilot of a 223rd CAB chopper requesting him to pop a smoke grenade.

"All I had were some pin flares," Peterson explained, "so I popped one and they spotted it and radioed that we were about 115 yards form the original PZ (pick-up zone). The ship came in but took some hits as it was making the final approach and had to get out of the area fast."

As the rescue ship approached the downed crew, enemy troops on the hillside loosed a barrage of small arms fire.

Cobra gunships accompanying the mercy craft worked over the suspected enemy positions with rockets and miniguns while the ship hovered three to four feet over the downed helicopter and Peterson's crew scrambled aboard.

"As we came out, we started catching more small arms fire so we all opened up with our 16s," Peterson noted.

The dustoff chopper stayed at treetop level for about a mile as it moved down into the valley and gained altitude very slowly for the ride back to the Leatherneck Pad at Khe Sanh.

"I was never so happy in my life as when we touched down back here," Berger said. "We never did get the names of the crew that pulled us out of there, but if they're ever in trouble someday, I hope we're around to pay them back."

Army Reporter:
17May71 Page 11
Photo Caption:
IF SPEC. 4 Eddie Nichols, **174th Aslt, Hel. Co.,** 23rd (Americal) Infantry Division doesn't clean your windshield and check your oil, you won't get your money back. (Nose art: very worn shows the 11th Inf. Bde patch).

23rd Inf Div

In Quang Ngai Province of Military Region 1 on the morning of May 23, an element of the 198th Bde., 23rd Infantry Division *[Historian Note:* ***C 1/52 Inf Bn*** *located at least 2 1/2 tons of rice on May 23, 1971]* , on a search operation 10 miles north-northwest of Quang Ngai City found a nine ton cache of unpolished rice which was evacuated.

To the north in Quang Nam Province at about noon May 24, an element of the 198th Bde. engaged an unknown-size enemy force nine miles west of Hoi An. Nine of the enemy were killed; two individual weapons and one crew-served weapon captured. There were no friendly casualties.

That afternoon in Quang Ngai Province, an element *[Historian Note:* ***C 1/52 Inf. Bn****.]* of the 198th Bde. 13 miles west of Quang Ngai City discovered a four and one-half ton rice cache. The rice was in good condition and was evacuated. There was no enemy contact.

Also in the province on the morning of May 26, an element of the 198th Bde. on a search operation 12 miles northwest of Quang Ngai City engaged an estimated enemy squad. Six enemy soldiers were killed and one individual weapon captured. There were no U.S. casualties.

Still in the province that morning, an element of the 198th Bde. *[Historian Note:* ***C 1/52 Inf. Bn.****]* on a search operation 13 miles northwest of Quang Ngai City discovered an enemy cache containing four and one-half tons of rice. The rice was in good condition and evacuated. There was no enemy contact.

Late in the morning of May 28, an element of the 198th Bde. *[Historian Note:* ***A & C 1/52 Inf. Bn****. both located large rice caches on May 28, 1971]* on a search operation 10 miles northwest of Quang Ngai City discovered and evacuated a 22 ton rice cache. There was no enemy contact.

That afternoon in Quang Ngai Province, an element of the 11th Bde. ***[Historian Note: 174th AHC and B 4/21 Inf. Bn.]*** engaged an estimated 50 enemy soldiers 26 miles southeast of Quang Ngai City. U.S. helicopter gunships and artillery supported the action. Thirteen of the enemy were killed. There were no friendly casualties.

Military Region 1

In a late report, it was announced that on the morning of May 22, a U.S. Army helicopter received enemy ground fire, crashed, and was destroyed six miles northwest of A Luoi an Thua Thien Province. There were no U.S. casualties.

That afternoon to the south in Quang Tin Province, a U.S. Army OH6 helicopter received enemy fire, crashed and was destroyed 11 miles west of Chu Lai. Three U.S. crewmen were wounded in the action.

Early in the morning of May 25, the U.S. Army base at Chu Lai in Quang Tin Province received fewer than 10 rounds of 122mm rocket fire, resulting in no casualties or damage.

Late in the morning of May 27, a U.S. Army AH1 helicopter on a gunship mission crashed from unknown causes and was destroyed 10 miles southwest of Quang Tri. Two U.S. crewmen were killed in the crash.

At about noon on May 28, a U.S. Army OH1 [?] helicopter received enemy ground fire, crashed, and was destroyed 17 miles southwest of Hoi An in Quang Nam Province. Four U.S. crew members were wounded.

The following sections contains articles that were printed in the Pacific Stars and Stripes related to actions of the 174th Aviation Company:

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Pacific Stars & Stripes:
27Aug67- (Sunday) Page 6
Photo Caption: Troops of the 3rd Brigade, 4th Inf. Div., launch a morning assault on the Viet Cong on a ridgeline south of Duc Pho. (Choppers of the **174th Aviation Co.** carry the troops into battle. (USA Photo by Spec. 4 Lyle Larson)

Pacific Stars & Stripes:
26Jun68-U.S. Copter 'Saves' NVA

CHU LAI, Vietnam (Special)
- A Huey helicopter pilot supporting Americal Div.'s 196th Inf. Brigade went after what was reported to be a downed American jet pilot, but came back with a North Vietnamese Army soldier instead.

WO Kenneth W. Johnson of Webster City, Iowa, was flying a resupply and medevac mission for a battalion of the 196th which was under fire five miles north of Dong Ha.

An ARVN outpost in the area of where an F4 jet went down reported spotting the pilot wandering in a rice paddy.

"I picked up the message and went down to take a look," said the **174th Aviation Co.** pilot, "I spotted him and also thought he was the pilot."

"We were about 100 yards from him when he suddenly threw up both hands and I realized he was an NVA." The Huey picked up the NVA and took him in to the 3rd Bn., 21st Inf., command post.

The pilot was later picked up by another aircraft.

Pacific Stars & Stripes:
Stars & Stripes Page 6. Tuesday April 20, 1969

Enemy Losses High

Cavalrymen Turn the Tables on Reds

S&S Vietnam Bureau

SAIGON – .....

Americal Div. troops, sweeping an area where an OH6 observation helicopter had been shot down by enemy fire, killed 21 Reds in three encounters six miles west of Duc Pho. The aircraft had been destroyed and one of its crewmen killed and two other wounded. Three ground troops were killed and two wounded while searching for the Communist anti-aircraft position. *(Historian Note: Charles Robinson of B/123rd Aviation Battalion was killed in this action along with 3 men from C/4/3rd Inf. Bn.. on 17 April 1969. 1025H April 17, 1969 Warlord LOH was shot down location BS7040. Pilot and crewchief were wounded. Door gunner body and machine gun was searched for and recovered. Sharks (**174th AHC**) helicopter gunships were scrambled. LOH was destroyed. Two enemy .51 caliber machine guns were captured. C/3-1st and a company from C/4/3rd Infantry secured the area. Destroyed Warlord LOH was returned to Chu Lai.*

Pacific Stars & Stripes:
Stars & Stripes Page 6. Saturday, June 14, 1969

Huey Blasted
3 Yanks Die

SAIGON (S&S) – **Three Americans were killed and eight wounded Wednesday when an Army UH1 Huey helicopter hit an enemy explosive while landing two miles south of Duc Pho in Quang Ngai Province.** ***(Historian Note: 11Jun69 at 1403H grid location BS805324 174th AHC helicopter detonated a 105mm booby trapped mine while landing. Aircraft a combat loss, 3 US KIA, 8 US WIA (E). Men lost were from E Company 4/21st Infantry Battalion).***

The other Americans were wounded the same day when an Army OH6 Cayuse helicopter was shot down by Communist ground fire four miles southeast of Plei Mrong in Pleiku Province.

Pacific Stars & Stripes:
13Jul69-**THE DIARY OF A G.I.**

by sp4 horace cassels

The Vietnam war is seen in the following dispatch through the eyes of a young American soldier actively involved in it. Spec. 4 Horace M. Cassels son of UPI Senior Editor Louis Cassels, has been in Vietnam since March, flying as crew chief and doorgunner on an assault helicopter. His journal, mailed home in irregular installments, is a vividly personal account of the experience of going to war, from port of embarkation to combat. Here are some excerpts.

FORT LEWIS, Wash., Feb 26- This is the main port of embarkation for Vietnam. I arrived at Seattle Airport about 3 p.m., and boarded a bus for the 45-mile trip to the reception station. By 11 p.m., I had checked in, drawn my sheets and found my barracks. It's an old yellow wooden building put up hastily in World War II. The floors are covered with dust and trash. The only light comes from bare 60-watt bulbs. On each side of the long room, in rows of 10, are double-decker metal bunk beds covered with stained mattresses. It's not terribly homey. I guess they don't want us to get too attached to the place.....

Fort Lewis, Feb 27 - They let us lie around in bed until 4 a.m. today then routed us out for work details. I ducked out of mine about 10 a.m. and went over to quartermaster to turn in my dress uniforms and draw jungle issue. It's a good thing green is my color. . . .

Fort Lewis, Feb. 28 - We're leaving tomorrow. To celebrate, Gerry and I went to the PX and played the pinball machines. There was a movie I'd already seen - The Beatles in "Yellow Submarine." It didn't go over very big with the GI audience here. I don't see how anyone can expect soldiers to enjoy a flower power movie just before they take off to fight in Vietnam.

En route to Vietnam, March 1 - We got up about 6 a.m. to turn in our bedding and take buses to the airport. We were supposed to take off at 11:00 a.m., but as usual, everything ran late and we didn't get away until 3 p.m. We're flying on a chartered commercial airliner - a Boeing 707 jet. The flight to Vietnam takes 18 hours. A private sitting beside me said he wished we were going by boat instead of plane. I asked him why, and he said, "I can swim but I sure can't fly."

Cam Ranh Bay, Vietnam, March 2 - This is our first stop in Vietnam. We'll be here until they sort us out and decide where to send us. I'm thinking of putting in for Hawaii. Cam Ranh is a pretty plush base. They have running water and electric lights. The latrines are like outhouses and there is one shower building at the end of the compound. The weather here is pretty hot - 95 degrees this morning and they tell me it can get as high as 130.

Cam Ranh Bay, March 3 - I think there are people here who don't like me. The reason I have this impression is that someone is shooting at me! I was asleep in the barracks last night when suddenly the sirens started going. The freshly-arrived troops set some new track records getting out of the barracks last night and into the bunkers. We didn't know what in hell was coming off. Turned out to be no big thing. Charlie was dropping a few rockets around but we didn't get any direct fire.

(Continued)

(Continued) Pacific Stars & Stripes: 13Jul69-**THE DIARY OF A G.I.**

Chu Lai, March 5 - I have left Cam Ranh and am now at Chu Lai, which is in the I Corps area, about 90 miles from the DMZ. A little too close to Charlie's hometown for comfort. Last night, they lobbed some rockets in about 300 yards from my hut. Once they started to come in, we wasted no time getting into the bunkers.....Our hut is right on the beach. However, I do not think this place will catch on as a resort area. Aside from Charlie, the South China Sea has such a strong undercurrent they have forbidden us to swim in it. If you get shot, that's one thing, but if you drown it looks bad on the general's safety record.

Chu Lai, March 9 - The sea really is beautiful. As I look out from the beach I can see mountains jutting out from the coast. The water changes color as it moves into shore, going from a thick rich blue to greenish blue and then turning greener and greener until it washes over the reddish white sand. The only thing that spoils the picture is the barbed wire.. . . . endless rolls of it, about 40 yards offshore.

Chu Lai, March 10 - We've been taking classes on survival. Our instructor is a tough Green Beret sergeant who has survived plenty of hand-to-hand combat in World War II, Korea and 'Nam. He has taught us some methods of killing that are so bizarre all I could do was laugh. It's hard to believe how human beings can behave sometimes.

Duk Pho [sic], March 12 - I've finally been assigned to my combat unit - the **174th Assault Helicopter Co.** We are at a small base just outside the town of Duc Pho in the southern I Corps area. I have a room of my own in the barracks, and I've hired two South Vietnamese civilians to help me fix it up. They charge $1.50 a day each. That's not AFL-CIO scale, but they do pretty good work. We have put plywood paneling on the walls and are building a desk. You should hear me try to talk to these guys in Vietnamese. They seem pretty friendly, but they may turn out to be VC spies. It's hard to tell the good guys from the bad guys. The other day, they caught our post barber setting up reflectors to guide rockets into our area. He turned out to be an NVA (North Vietnamese) officer.....

Duk Pho [sic], April 2 - Wow, I've really been busy. I am crew chief and left doorgunner on a Huey H-model chopper. It has a crew of 4 - two pilots, two gunners. We fly 8 to 10 hours every day, and after we land I have to do the maintenance on our ship, so I put in some pretty long hours.

We've been getting plenty of action. Too much, in fact. My first time out, the man next to me was killed.

We were on a charlie-charlie (command and control) flight. That's a mission where a colonel rides with us on a low flight around his area of operations, directing his troops from the air. We also hunt Viet Cong. We were flying over the beach and spotted two VC crossing a sand dune. Dropping down to about 100 feet, we opened fire and killed the two VC.

At the same time, some VC hidden in the jungle nearby opened fire on us. A bullet went under my leg and hit the sergeant next to me. The bullet entered his thigh and went up into his chest. His blood splattered all over me.

I got chewed out because I quit firing my machine gun and tried to stop him from bleeding. The colonel said I should have kept on firing and let someone else help the sergeant.

but at the time, he sort of shook me up. He had only five days to go before going home and his wife was already waiting for him in Japan.....

I bought a tape recorder at the PX and have begun to accumulate some good sounds on tape - The Beatles, Simon and Garfunkel, Dionne Warwick. I turn it on when I get to my room at night and let it play real loud. It keeps you from going crazy.

Pacific Stars & Stripes:
18Nov69-**Reds Down 2 Copters, 7 Killed, 7 Injured**

S&S Vietnam Bureau

SAIGON - Enemy ground fire downed two Army UH1 Huey helicopters Saturday ***[15Nov69***], killing seven and injuring seven.

The first Huey went down in Quang Ngai Province, 73 miles southeast of Da Nang, killing five *[Historian Note: Command and control helicopter for C/3-1 Tail #661, BS473717 at 1550H. UH-1H rec AWF fr BS473714 and crashed. B/3-1 Inf Bn. enroute to secure helicopter. Tail number* 68-15661 may be from the **174th AHC**.*]* The second craft was shot down 21 miles southeast of Da Nang in Quang Tin Province, killing two and wounding seven.

In other action.....

Those Airborne Battle-Sharks

Photos and Story

By Spec. 4 Peter R. Sorensen

FSB BRONCO, Vietnam (Special) – In a sense, the "**Shark**" gunship platoon of the **174th Aviation Co.** (Assault Helicopter) is an anachronism.

While their helicopters and weaponry are '70's vintage, the battle techniques of a guerilla ware are reminiscent of the 1914 skies over France. When a thin-skinned "Shark" banks and rolls in to engage the enemy, it is subject to the same antiaircraft and small arms fire that were thrown at a "Spad" biplane.

There is still a certain romance to piloting the Americal Div. flying machines. The hectic and often dangerous schedule includes lively camaraderie at a club and white sheeted bed at night, rather than a soggy Vietnamese rice paddy or muddy European trench. the young pilots' "gung ho" enthusiasm is still tempered by their experienced professionalism.

Five miles east of Quang Ngai City, two "**Shark**" heavy fire teams alternate flying security for a combat assault of the 4th ARVN Regt. The waves of men are ferried into 24 landing zones by a dozen utility ships.

Gunships without a "hot" landing zone are like and infantryman without a P38 can opener. They "prep" the landing zones and patiently cover the sky-train of utility ships. They wait. The two gunship pilots are in constant communication.

"The smoke ship did alright this time, right between the tree line and the LZ, said Capt. Stephen S. Riddle.

"Darn wind makes it hard not to smoke the flight. That lead ship is too low. She'll get their before us if she doesn't pull up," replied 1st Lt. John I. O'Sullivan.

For three hours the gunships make the flight back and forth between staging areas and landing zones. The teams alternate stops at Quang Ngai City for fuel, rearmament and a short C-ration picnic.

Returning to station, the gunships cruise the site of the last combat assault of the day. They gain altitude to oversee the put-down of utility ships and ARVN infantry. Riddle stretches in his front seat. It is getting dark.

The Air Mission Control ship comes on the horn: "CA (combat assault) complete, LZ Hot. I repeat, Hot."

"Let's go get ém," said Riddle, as he banked and descended to the left.

"I've got four or five on the run in uniforms with weapons," announced O'Sullivan as he dove into a hedge-rowed saddle.

Rockets, mini-gun and door-gun fire are poured into the area. O'Sullivan pulls out to the sound of exploding rockets and the sight of black bellowing smoke.

(Continued)

Those Airborne Battle-Sharks

Like two firecrackers in a trash can, the rockets leap forward in their pods, sending red hot ignition wire fragments flying into the cabin. The door gunners open up with a steady stream of B60 [M60] fire for flank security at this critical moment. Through the windshield, two black mushrooms explode on target. Two more sets of two rockets are sent on their way before the "Shark" jerks upward out of its dive. It circles to the right to continue the deadly two-"Shark" pinwheel. Riddle comes on the intercom and acknowledges what all had heard, "Where did we take those hits?"

"We got about two or three rounds in the left rocket pod. One tube is down," replied Crew Chief Spec. 4 Ernest T. Johns.

During the next half hour, the gunships alternated angles of attack, destroyed a bunker receiving a secondary explosion and laid down suppressive fire for the advancing ground troops.

Air Mission Control: "'Shark 6,' you are released, fine job.

"That secondary may have been a mine. ?? you may stay on station if you want to see what the ARVN get into."

"I was hoping that he'd say that," remarked Riddle.

The two gunships reconned a large area surrounding the scene of contact. Returning to the battle site, "Shark 6" passed just over the smoldering saddle.

"Hey, there is a big hole down there," said gunner Johns.

The gunner waved and pointed out the spot to the ARVN. On a second pass, he threw a smoke grenade. On a third pass, a waving ARVN pointed to a uniformed NVA they had just pulled from the hole.

Wearily heading home above Highway One, the two ships bantered back and forth about the day's action.

"We took a couple of rounds in the chin bubble. Guess who got his third Purple Heart?" said O'Sullivan.

"You?" answered Riddle.

"Yea, took a little shrapnel in the leg."

In a few minutes the city-like perimeter lights of Firebase Bronco appear on the horizon.

[Historian Note: LT John O'Sullivan was a DSC recipient]

Photo Captions:

1) "SMOKEY," A SPECIALLY EQUIPPED UITILITY SHIP, LAYS DOWN COVER BETWEEN, TREELINE AND LANDING ZONE.

2) A GUNSHIP PREPS A LANDING ZONE NORTHEAST OF DUC PHO WITH ROCKETS AND MINIGUNS.

3) A UTILITY SHIP DELIVERS ITS LOAD OF TROOPS DURING THE ASSAULT.

4&5) a gunship flying high above provides security for ships on the ground (above) as shippers wait in the staging area for their load of troops. At left, the ground reels below as troops carrying ship heads into a landing zone.

Pacific Stars & Stripes
22Jul70 page 6 Wednesday

Photo Caption: Supplies are unloaded as the Kham Duc base is reopened. The base, formerly a Special Forces camp, was abandoned in 1968 after being overrun by Communist forces. (UPI Radiophoto) [ADVA Historian Note: Shown in the background of the photo is a **174th AHC Shark gunship** with M5 grenade system.)

LZ Kala Holds ARVN Key To Possible Drive Into Laos

By SPEC. 4 CHARLES SELF
S&S Staff Correspondent

LZ KALA, Vietnam – Landing Zone Kala dangles precariously over the edge of the craggy table atop a tall, steep hill 13 miles from the Vietnam-Laos border.

Vice President Nguyen Cao Ky stopped at the reopened outpost Monday to be briefed on ARVN operations in the far west of Quang Nam Province.

LZ Kala overlooks Kham Duc, an air strip and formerly a Special Forces camp. the camp was last held by Allied forces in 1968 until troops were evacuated while enemy forces fired at them from the mountains hanging over the camp.

Kham Duc lies in an area that has been virtually ignored by Allied forces for two years.

But last week it became a focal point of interest as speculation persisted that ARVN forces might move into Laos.

U.S. military spokesmen officially profess ignorance, but refuse to deny reports that the ARVN may move into Laos ("You'll have to ask them," Marine Commandant Gen. Leonard F. Chapman Jr. said Sunday).

Yet U.S. officials in Da Nang say they cannot arrange interviews with top ARVN officials, and until this week said an embargo had been placed on news of ARVN operations by Lt. Gen. Hoang Xuan Lam, I Corps commander.

A major offensive began with two U.S. Marine battalions and nine battalions of ARVN last week. But it started so far east that to think of the troops marching over the mountains of western Vietnam into the mountains of eastern Laos was incredible.

But when the ARVN reopened Kham Duc, so close to the border, on July 12, then poured in Vietnamese and U.S. infantry and artillery units and supporting troops in a little more than a week, observers began to take a second look at the possibility of an invasion of Laos.

Some U.S. advisers to the ARVN insist that the camp is only a forward supply point for operations designed to slide behind the enemy lines. The enemy in western I Corps is believed to be the strongest it has been in a year, according to military sources.

(Continued)

LZ Kala Holds ARVN Key To Possible Drive Into Laos

But one U.S. adviser said the operation so far been divided so that all the ARVN battalions at Kham Duc work west of the outpost, while U.S. units guard the areas to the east.

Another adviser said the supplies are pouring into the forward post in inordinately large quantities.

An adviser at I Corps headquarters in Da Nang balked at the idea of the ARVN going into Laos. 'I can tell you this much," he said. "If they do, they will be going against the advice of all their advisers. I don't think Gen. Lam or President Thieu is willing to risk the international implications of such a move."

Between Kham Duc and the Laotian border lies at least 13 miles of mountains covered with tangled brush. Beyond the border is more of the same. The sweet taste of rapid victory experienced by the ARVN when it moved into Cambodia is unlikely in Laos, one adviser said.

And so the ARVN troops cling to the dusty terraced crow's next of LZ Kala waiting for whatever it is that the South Vietnamese government plans – to finish the cleanup of NVA sanctuaries in Vietnam or to take the fight across the border.

Fierce Fire Fight

Americal Troops Slay 52 Reds

S&S Vietnam Bureau

CHU LAI, Vietnam – Troops of the Americal Div., encountering their heaviest fighting in four months, killed 52 enemy soldiers in a series of sharp actions Monday, division officers reported.

In the largest contact, eight miles south of Quang Ngai, a division soldiers killed 27 communists during a fierce exchange of fire. No U.S. casualties were reported by the U.S. Command. ***(Historian Note: The 174th AHC gunships claimed 27 probable kills in actions that resulted in seven 174th AHC helicopters receiving hits. 2 aircraft were to be extracted at first light. D/1/20 & B/1/20th Inf Bn were being medevaced and securing downed helicopters. C/6/11th Arty provided artillery fires).***

A half-mile to the north, three Americans were killed and seven wounded in a ground action in which enemy losses were not known.

Division ground troops, supported by helicopter gunships, killed 11 Communists in an area 10 miles northwest of Quang Ngai, the officers said.

(Historian Note: This action involved A/1/52nd Inf & C/1/52nd Inf Bn. and 176thAHC helicopters. C/1/52nd Inf was securing a downed 176th AHC in this action).

Fourteen other enemy soldiers were killed and seven wounded in a ground action in which enemy losses were not known.

Division ground troops, supported by helicopter gunships, killed 11 Communists in an area 10 miles northwest of Quang Ngai, the officers said.

Fourteen other enemy soldiers were killed by Americal GIs during several minor contacts throughout the day, division officers said.

An incident in Quang Nam Province Monday in which 105mm artillery fire killed two persons and wounded five others was under investigation, the U.S. command said.

A military spokesman said a U.S. Marine artillery unit was conducting a fire mission in the area, seven miles southwest of Da Nang, at about the same time.

One American and one Popular Force soldier were killed and four Americans and one Vietnamese soldier were wounded, the U.S. command reported.

Five Americans were killed and nine wounded by booby traps in Quang Nam, Quang Tin, Quang Ngai and Binh Dinh provinces, U.S. military sources said.

ARVN and Regional Forces killed nine enemy soldiers during scattered actions in Quang Tin and Phuoc Long provinces, the Vietnamese command said.

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19Oct70-Pacific Stares & Stripes
Monday Page 7

Army Airmen Honored

WASHINGTON (S&S) --The outstanding men and units of 1969-1970 in Army aviation were named last week at the annual honors luncheon of the Army Aviation Association of America (AAAA) here.

Selected by the AAAA, they are the 191st Airborne Div. (Airmobile), outstanding unit: **Lt. John E. O'Sullivan, aviator of the year,** and Spec. 5 Dennis L. Jantz, aviation soldier of the year. *(Note: Correction printed Thursday, Oct. 22, 1970 page 7: The 101st Airborne Div. was erroneously identified in a story on this page Oct. 18 as the 191st Airborne Div. Pacific Stars & Stripes regrets the error and apologizes to the 101st, which was honored as the outstanding Army aviation unit of 1969-70.)*

Col. Robert W. Bailey, commander of the Aeromedical Research Laboratory at Ft. Rucker, Ala., was also named winner of the James H. McClellan aviation safety award for 1969-1970.

Gen. William C. Westmoreland, Army chief of staff and former commander of the 101st when it was at Ft. Campbell, Ky., presented the silver trophy to former division commanders Lt. Gens. Melvin Zais and John Wright and Command Sgts. Maj. Robert A. Young and William T. Mixon.

The 191st was selected on the basis of its record from April 1969 to March 1970 when it was reorganized from an airborne division to an airmobile unit under conditions of continuous combat and without interruption in its mission in South Vietnam.

O'Sullivan received his award for his actions as section commander in the armed helicopter platoon of the **174th Assault Helicopter Co.** in the Americal Division in Vietnam.

O'Sullivan led an attack on three well-armed entrenched Viet Cong main force companies near Quang Ngai City. In the action 78 VC were killed, 26 wounded and a quantity of rifles and rocket launchers captured.

Jantz, UH1 helicopter crew-chief with the 240th Aviation Co. (Assault Helicopter) in Vietnam was honored for flying more than 1,200 combat hours and 1,000 combat mission during an 18-month period in Vietnam.

Photo Caption: Helicopters of the Americal Div.'s 174th Aviation Co. land behind a smoke screen as they deliver troops about five miles west of Quang Ngai. the troops were from the 11th Brigade's 3rd Bn., 1st Inf. (USA).

ARVN GIs, Artillery, Planes Pound Reds in U Minh Forest

S&S Vietnam Bureau

SAIGON – A battalion of the 21st ARVN Inf. Div. supported by artillery and tactical air strikes, killed 23 enemy soldiers **Tuesday** ***[05JAN71]*** in a battle on the eastern edge of the U Minh Forest, 140 miles southwest of Saigon, Vietnamese military spokes men reported Wednesday.

Meanwhile, U.S. Command spokesmen reported that units of the Americal Div. killed eight enemy soldiers in two separate actions near Quang Ngai, 75 miles south of Da Nang.

[Historian Note: 1st of two incidents: Americal Division Tactical Operations Center report: *11th Bde, reporting entry# 41 from 05JAN71. At 1700H-1800H,* ***R/1-20*** *at BS714551 on OP obsr 15xVC/NVA mov E, eng w/arty at BS723452. Res: 2xKIA,* ***174th Avn*** *eng 1xVC/NVA, res: 1xVC/NVA KIA. Resupply bird used to insert R/1-20 into contact area. At BS721452 obsr bnkr and eng w/G/S. Res: 1xbnkr dest.* ***R/1-20*** *eng 2xVC/NVA, res:* ***2xKIA****. Cont sweep and eng 2xVC/NVA.* ***Res: 2xKIA****. They then move to NDP, will sweep at first light. At first light, fnd 4xKIA in grn fatigues, 3xin blk PJ's, 5xKIA had NVA bush hats and blk pistol belts w/Star. All CIA will be evac to Bronco tomorrow.* ***4xKIA*** *credit to R/1-20. Note: This action accounts for 7 of the 8 enemy KIAs reported for Americal soldiers]*

[Historian Note: 2nd of two incidents: Americal Division Tactical Operations Center report entry#22: 198th Bde, reporting. At 1310H, **D/1-6** at BS673894, on ptl obsr & eng w/SAF 10xVC w/packs & wpns wearing blk PJ's at prox 200m SW. VC evad S. Swept area and fd one blood trail running SE and one going SW. Also fd 2xpacks cont numerous AK rds, electrical blasting caps, 4xRPG stabilizers, RPG fuel propellant and docu. While srch eng 1xVC hiding in brush w/SAF. Res: 1xVC KIA, req tracker dog tm and air cav and arty blocking fire, and all rec. G/S left sta at 1350H. Pysops tm fr Dottie also employed. Update: at 1617H, Sp Fort rept that while following blood trails elm det B/T w/4xUS WIA & 1xKCS KIA. D/O compl to 27 Surg at 1605H. B/T was at BS674894 in hedgerow, had TWFD. Tracker dog tm was following footprints, crater size 3'x4'. Two of the evac were D/O to CHL, 91st Evac. CIA docu are at IPW, show VC to be w/K-51 elm. Wpn evac to Dottie w/100 rds AK-47 ammo. Wpn was AK-47, VC had neg ID. This action accounts for another 1 enemy KIA for the total of 8 enemy KIAs by Americal soldiers on 05 JAN71]

Two Americans were killed and one wounded Tuesday afternoon when an element of the 1st Air Cav. Div. was attacked while on a reconnaissance mission six miles southeast of Xuan Lac. An enemy force of undetermined size fired rocket grenades and small arms fire for 40 minutes before finally being forced out of a bunker complex by American artillery and helicopter gunships.

In Military Region I, a Vietnamese Ranger unit battled enemy soldiers during operations 15 miles southwest of Da Nang. The Rangers killed eight Reds and detained 10. There were no Vietnamese casualties, Vietnamese military spokesmen said Wednesday.

Also in MR I, three Americans were wounded when their OH58 helicopter was hit by enemy ground fire and crashed in Quang Tri Province, the U.S. Command said.

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Pacific Stars & Stripes
05Mar71 Page 1
Friday

8 Copters Downed

S&S Vietnam Bureau

SAIGON – Eight U.S. helicopters were downed over Laos Wednesday, the U.S. command reported, as new fighting broke out in the South Vietnamese drive into the Ho Chi Minh Trail complex.

The U.S. command said the UH1 Huey copters were hit by enemy ground fire and all eight crashed and burned. One American was killed, 10 were wounded and six were missing.

Informed sources at Khe Sanh said the helicopters were downed during the deepest combat assault yet made into Laos by Vietnamese troops, who were attacking a hilltop position infested with North Vietnamese.

Sources said that at least six of the choppers were downed around a landing zone 21 miles inside Laos and two miles south of Route 9.

South Vietnamese troops at the landing zone were reported taking heavy fire from a ridgeline north of the landing zone, and from tree lines to the west.

Between 10 and 40 Cobra gunships hovered over the landing zone all day, taking
turns firing on enemy positions, the sources said. There were reports of intermittent artillery support from Army of the Republic of Vietnam (ARVN) units.

In other Laos action Wednesday, a battle raged for 10 hours around Fire Support Base 30, the Vietnamese Command announced in Saigon. South Vietnamese airborne troops killed 98 North Vietnamese in the action, a command spokesman said.

The battle followed enemy shelling and a ground attack aimed at the base eight miles northwest of Lao Bao, a site on Route 8 at the Vietnam-Laos border.

In a delayed report, the Vietnamese Command said an ARVN armored cavalry unit turned back an enemy attack 11 miles northwest o Lao Bao Monday and the retreating North left behind 200 dead. South Vietnamese casualties were 12 killed and 33 wounded, a spokesman said.

Meanwhile, the South Vietnamese military command announced its troop commitment in Laos has increased by 2,000 Tuesday and Wednesday, brining the totals to 18,000

It is likely that (These KIAs may have been the result of the action reported in this article: **Gary T. Padilla of the 174th AHC** and from B/158AVN101ABN Charles R. Anderson, Paul A. Sgambati)

Pacific Stars & Stripes: **09Mar71 Page 6 Tuesday**

ARVN Aid Rescue of 7 Airmen Down in Laos

By SPEC. 5
STEVE CONAWAY
S&S Staff Correspondent

QUANG TRI, Vietnam – Seven American helicopter crewmen were flown out of Laos Sunday after spending two days and two nights in an area swarming with North Vietnamese army regulars.

Their Army UH1 Huey had been downed by Communist ground fire 12 miles inside Laos near Route 9 Friday as they were flying in support of an insertion of South Vietnamese ground troops.

They were picked up Sunday after being led to a landing zone by a unit of elite Hac Bao (Black Panthers).

The commander of the downed chopper, **Capt. Ralph E. (Butch) Elliott,** 23, ***[174th AHC]*** told newsmen here Sunday how he and the other six men in his crew set up a defensive position in an abandoned NVA machine gun nest and fought Communists and thirst until rescue craft could get to them.

Elliott said when the helicopter went down no one was hurt, but they were only able to carry their weapons and survival radio out of the craft.

"U.S. Air Force forward air controllers (FACs) go on station right away and stayed with us the whole time we were down," he said. "It was really a blessing to have them with us."

He said the enemy was not looking for us Friday night. "They were too busy pulling off parts of the helicopter and carrying them off.

"That night I estimated there were 100 NVA in our area. The Air Force said that was a very, very low estimate," he said.

"We took turns crawling up under some nearby trees and tried to rest for the night. We had no water with us. It really hurt," he said.

Elliott said an Air Force "Super Jolly Green Giant" helicopter and two Army Hueys had tried to pick them up Friday but were driven off by enemy fire.

One of the Army helicopters carried Elliott's commander, who promoted **Elliott** over the radio as the chopper left the area.

(Continued)

Saturday night, **Elliott** said, a B52 raid was called in about a mile away from their position. "It was a beautiful sight," he said, "but I hope that I never have to be that close to one again. The Air Force did a wonderful job in placing it so close to us."

Saturday night the crew got into a 45-minute fire fight with the NVA. One of the men took a minor frag wound from one of the four grenades thrown at them, **Elliott** said. "I think we must have hit a couple of them which caused them to withdraw," he said. "It is a good thing that they did. We were just about out of ammunition."

Sunday morning the crew took sponges that had been used as packing in a canister dropped to them and soaked up enough dew from their weapons and nearby leaves to wipe their faces, he said. There was not enough water to drink.

The ARVN Black Panther unit had been put in to find them Saturday but because of dense jungle did not reach them until Sunday morning, Elliott said.

The **crewmen** were picked up by two Army Hueys at a landing zone the South Vietnamese had carved out of the side of a hill, he said.

Elliott told newsmen, "It's great to be here. I sure wouldn't want to do it again."

One of the crew's door gunners, **Spec. 4 Harold Brasket**, 21, said, "That was definitely a bad experience, but I'm not going to quit flying because of it."

[ADVA Historian: This was a crew from the 174th AHC company, 14th Avn Bn. This unit normally supported the 11th Inf. Brigade of the Americal Division. But for operation Lam Son 719 the 14th Avn Bn pulled up to support the operation. There were heavy losses of men and helicopters from the unit during this operation. Photo of the pilot and crewchief later appeared on page 6 of the March 10, 1971 issue. (ADVA Historian Note: Americal Division units supported operation Lam Son 719 based from Khe Sanh under operational control of the 1/5 Bde (Mech) and/or the 101st Airmobile Division.]

Stars & Stripes:
Pacific Stars & Stripes
10Mar71 Page 6
Wednesday

Photo Caption: 'Great to Be Back'

Capt. Ralph E. Elliott talks to newsmen in Quang Tri after he and his six-man crew were rescued after spending two days on the ground in Laos. Elliott's helicopter went down after being hit in the engine. "It feels great to be back," he said. Behind **Elliot** is one of the crewmen, Spec. 4 Harold **Brasket**. (AP Radiophoto).

(Historian Note: The crew was from the **174th AHC** of the 14th Aviation Battalion. The **174th AHC** normally supported the 11th Bde of the Americal Division. However, the 14th Aviation battalion was used to support Operation Lam Son 719. (ADVA Historian Note: Americal Division units supported operation Lam Son 719 based from Khe Sanh under operational control of the 1/5 Bde (Mech) and/or 101st Airmobile Division.)

Pacific Stars & Stripes 14Apr71 Page 1 Wednesday

15,000-Lb. 'Daisy Cutters' Used at FB-6

Compiled From UPI and
S&S Vietnam Bureau

PLEIKU, Vietnam – Rain squalls and winds slowed operations around Fire Base 6 Monday afternoon but six South Vietnamese helicopters managed to drop vital supplies onto the base, a Vietnamese spokesman said here.

He described the situation around the base as "very calm" Monday afternoon. The base has been under Communist pressure for 13 days.

Early Monday a Vietnamese Ranger unit killed 15 Reds two miles northeast of the base, a spokesman in Saigon said. Three Rangers were wounded.

B52 bombers truck twice Monday, one mile southwest and 1 ½ miles southeast of the base, spokesmen said.

Meanwhile, military sources in Saigon said the U.S. Monday used its biggest conventional bomb, a 15,000-pound "Daisy Cutter" for the first time against Communist troops, dropping two of them on North Vietnamese forces near Fire Base 6.

The bombs, largest in the U.S. arsenal except for nuclear weapons, rolled out the back of four engined C130 transport planes over densely-jungled terrain near where the frontiers of Laos, Cambodia and South Vietnam converge, sources said.

The 7 ½ -ton bombs, which explode just above the ground and blast a clearing as big as a football field, were dropped, sources said, where North Vietnamese forces were reported massing.

The sources and assessment of the damage done by Monday's bombing was not yet available. But they said the explosive power of the weapon was demonstrated during the recent Laotian campaign when the bombs caused landslides blocking Communist supply roads in mountainous regions.

The blockbusters were originally used in Indochina to carve zones out of rough terrain for helicopter landing pads. Even well outside the immediate blast area, the enormous concussion effectively disables troops by causing bleeding from the ears and nose, sources said.

Meanwhile in Cambodia, South Vietnamese forces supported by artillery and tactical air strikes killed 200 Communists Sunday afternoon three miles northwest of Chrum, Saigon military spokesmen said. ARVN casualties were six wounded.

Communists killed 10 Americans and wounded six when an element of the Americal Div. attempted to secure a downed helicopter 13 miles south of Quang Ngai Sunday afternoon. U.S. Command spokesmen said. One American was killed and two wounded when the U.S. Army UH1 Helicopter crashed Sunday, the spokesman said.

(Continued)

(Continued) **Pacific Stars & Stripes 14Apr71 Page 1 Wednesday**

15,000-Lb. 'Daisy Cutters' Used at FB-6

*(Historian note: The infantry unit was A/1/20th Inf Bn., the helicopter shot down was a **174th helicopter tail #67-17191.** Several air strikes were applied as well has helicopters from B/123rd Avn Bn, F/8th Cav, and of course the **174th AHC** which was in from the start. The report was delayed and placed in the April 12, 1971 reports although the action took place on Sunday April 11, 1971.*

From the Americal Division TOC report page 1-2 of 10 for 12 April 1971.

Entry # Time

2 0001 (C) 11 Bde, Lt Strother, A/1-20, BS628523 at 111600H. R/S acft (Tail #191) was approaching (acft commander said acft had just set down when 1st rd hit in front of acft, started off and 2d hit the fuel cell causing acft to burst into flame and set down) 3/A/1-20 field loc when hit by 1xM-79 rd. Acft attempted to fly out of LZ and was hit by second M79 rd, crashed into LZ and burned. LZ came under heavy volume of SAF, M79, B40 and MG fire from NE, E and S of perimeter at approx 75-100m. Element of 3/A/1-20 assisted crew from acft. Acft exploded 5xtimes, causing 2xKIA and 4xWIA. At same time LZ rec H/gren and satchel charges at 1610H. G/S req at 1604H, on station at 1611H. FAC on station at 1623H. Arty called in by FO at 1630H. Also at 1630H D/O on station. 3/A still rec SAF. At 1710H B/S (Gunsmoke 6, Warlord 3 & 34 and Warlord 20 on station. FAC (Helix 39) on station 1717H, called in A/S at 1730H, consisting of 4xsorties of planes w/hard bombs and napalm. D/O picked up 7xpersonnel from A Co CP and inserted them into contact LZ for assistance. At 1738H D/O extr 5xUS WIA to B/23d Med. At 1740H F/8 Cav G/S on station. FAC (Helix 39) put in another A/S at 1820H (4xsorties of napalm). CA fleet (1-2-5) on station at 1825H. 1/B/1-20 picked up at Liz at 1830H (29xpax). Inserted into contact LZ at 1847H. AMC rec approx 15-20 rds of SAF from BS617523 at approx 1840H. G/S expended ammo on grid w/unk res. **174 Avn (Dolphin 21) crew** and 2xWIA were extr by 174 Avn (Dolphin 6) at 1850H and taken to B/23d Med. at 1855H FAC (Helix 32) on station, had A/S of 2xsorties. AMC broke station at 1901H. XXIV Corps acft (Shadow 61) on station at 1901H. FAC (Helix 32 broke station at 2130H. 174 Avn (Shark 3 & 7) and 123 Avn (Gunsmoke 6) broke station at 1950H. Res: 11x US KIA (9xbelonged to A Co, 1xwas crew chief of **174 Avn** and 1xwas chaplain of 1-20 Bn), 9xUS WIA, 2xen KIA confirmed 3x KIA within sight; (will confirm at first light), 1xAK47 CIA. XXIV Corps acft (Shadow 61) will be in area all night. 155mm, 8" and 175mm will be fired all night. 2xother plat of A Co will sweep at first light. 4x officers on ground at contact area (XO A Co, 3d plat leader A Co, 1st plat leader B Co and FO B Co). D Co will move toward contact area in morning. Ntfy: XXIV Corps, 120200H; C/S, 120145H; G3, 120140H.)

Two more helicopters were listed as downed, with one crewman wounded spokesmen said.

A U.S. Army UH1 helicopter was shot down 38 miles west of Da Nang Thursday, according to a delayed report. No casualties were reported.

Sunday morning Communist gunners downed a U.S. Army OH58 observation helicopter in Kampong Cham Province of Cambodia, they said. One crewman was wounded

128 Reds Killed in Highlands Battle

SAIGON - ..

Infantrymen of the 11th Brigade, Americal Div., backed by artillery and helicopter gunships, killed 13 Reds while suffering no casualties in a skirmish 25 miles southeast of Quang Ngai, command spokesmen said. *[Historian Note: this action was started by **B/4/21st** calling in artillery and gunships on 50 enemy. **174th AHC** had 13 killed recorded, but area was not to be swept until next day]*

Americal men from the 198th Brigade uncovered a 22-ton rice cache 10 miles northwest [of] Quang Ngai. *[Rice caches were found by **C/1/52nd Inf and A/1/52nd** Infantry Bn. on this day]*

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In other actions announced by allied spokesmen:

....

-- Communist gunners shot down a U.S. Army OH1 [sic] Observation helicopter 30 miles south of Da Nang, wounding four crewmen.

.....

Pacific Stars & Stripes: 18Jul71 **Page 6 Sunday**

2 Copters Downed

12 Reds Killed By Helo Gunships

S&S Vietnam Bureau

SAIGON – .....

Gunships from the 101st Airborne Div. killed six Reds nine miles southeast of Khe Sanh, and six guerrillas were killed by gunships 21 miles northeast of Pleiku, the U.S. Command said Friday.

In a delayed report, the command said U.S. gunships also killed five North Vietnamese Army soldiers Wednesday while supporting the rescue of an American helicopter crew shot down over Cambodia. One of the crewmen was wounded when Red gunners downed the OH6 observation helicopter in Prey Veng Province, according to the command.

Red gunners downed another OH6 14 miles southwest of Quang Tri Thursday, command spokesmen said. There were no U.S. casualties in the crash.

The U.S. command reported that one GI was killed and two wounded in a firefight 18 miles west-northwest of Quang Ngai. Enemy casualties in the encounter were unknown. ***[Historian Note: This action appears to involve B/1-52nd Inf. under the 11th Bde, supported by 174th AHC gunships)***

.....

Pacific Stars & Stripes 19Oct71 **– Page 7 Tuesday**

Stand Down for 290

SAIGON (S&S) – The **174th Aviation Co**. (assault helicopter) began stand down Saturday with 290 space reductions, Army spokesmen said. The men will be reassigned within Vietnam or returned to the United Sates.

*[Historian Note received this email from a pilot from the **174th AHC**, Mel Lutgring: I attached the original clipping but the date is not present. If the date of the issue is Tues. 19th of Oct. and it states Saturday we began the stand down, that was the 16th. My memory is that our last Operational Missions were conducted on Oct. 15, 1971. I find it ironic they banned the "Boonie" hat at same time we stood down.]*

Americal Division Daily Newsheets were printed to be shared one to every eight soldiers in the field. For this document I am mostly selecting pieces of articles related to the 174th Aviation Company, but if there is room I will put as much 11th Bde related materials as will fit. For the first item I put in most of a newsheet to show what was normally found in each issue.

AMERICAL NEWS SHEET
MG S.W. Koster, Commanding General
MAJ Gerald D. Hill jr., IO
Telephone: Chu Lai 3212 or 2414
This News Sheet is published daily under the supervision of the IO, Americal Division APO96374 as an authorized Army publication. This News Sheet is solely for personnel in the Americal Division and may not be duplicated or released to the news media.

Volume 1 No. 260 Americal Daily New Sheet Friday January 5, 1968

MIRACLE WEATHER REPORT

CLOUDY SATURDAY morning with occasional light rain showers. Becoming partly cloudy Saturday afternoon. Winds will be from the north at 5-10 miles per hour. High Saturday will be 74. Low Saturday night 64.

AMERICAL DIVISION NEWS

CHU LAI (AMERICAL IO)-Americal Division forces continued to maintain pressure on the enemy yesterday as they accounted for 72 enemy soldiers killed throughout southern I Corps.

In heavy contact yesterday elements of Americal's 196th "Charger" Brigade killed 32 VC in action west of Tam Ky. Since participating in Operation Wheeler-Wallowa the brigade has killed 452 enemy soldiers.

Early in the morning a unit from the 4th Battalion, 31st Infantry commanded by LTC Fredrick R. Cully (Fort-Walton Beach, Fla) was in heavy contact with an unknown size VC force. The unit in contact was led by CPT Daniel Mellon (Fairbanks, Alaska) and was receiving heavy automatic and mortar fire. At 1:55 a.m., another unit from the 31st Inf, led by CPT Joseph S. Stringham (Appleton, Wis) was moved in to support CPT Mellon' company.

Gunships from the 71st Aviation Company were called to support the heavily engaged infantrymen. The choppers reported receiving heavy automatic weapons fire, 50 caliber fire and possible RPG fire. Contact lasted until 3:10 a.m. CPT Mellon's unit received approximately 40 rounds of 60mm mortar fire during the initial part of the attack and they continued receiving sporadic fire until day light. During the battle CPT Mellon's (Continued On Page 2 Column 2) unit accounted for 15 kills. CPT Stringham's unit killed four VC. Four infantrymen and one interpreter were killed in the action. In other ground action a company led by CPT Jose Feliciano (Baltimore, Md) killed one VC who was engaged in small arms fire. A unit commanded by CPT John F. Connelly (Saugus, Mass) found a dead VC who had been killed by artillery fire from the 3rd Battalion, 82nd Artillery commanded by LTC Wayne H. Elliott (Tacoma, Wash). A unit from "F" Troop, 17th Cavalry received 15 rounds of small arms fire from approximately 200 meters west of their position. They engaged and killed one VC and captured his weapon.

(continued)

Scout and gunships from "C" Troop, 7th Squadron, 17th Cavalry accounted for 10 VC killed and the destruction of 37 camouflaged VC sampans. In all cases the VC were engaged as they tried to take evasive action.

Fourteen VC rallied to the government's side in the 196th area yesterday.

Ten more enemy soldiers were killed yesterday and five more NVA bodies were found as Americal's 3rd "Garry Owen" Brigade, of the 1st Air Cavalry maintained contact with a Regimental size force of the 2nd NVA Division in the Que Son Valley.

The enemy toll, in that battle that began early Wednesday morning when the NVA attempted to overrun the 3rd Brigade fire bases, now stands at 256 by actual body count. More than 100 weapons were captured or destroyed in Wednesday's contact, including: two 82mm mortars, six B-40 rocket launchers, a flame thrower and 16 AK-47 rifles.

Yesterday, LZ Leslie continued to receive sporadic mortar fire. Five NVA bodies were discovered inside the barged wire perimeter at LZ Leslie.

Eight of the enemy killed yesterday were a result of helicopter gun fire and tactical air strikes near Hill 270. Several tactical air strikes during the day accounted for three of the kills. Three B-52 strikes were made on Wednesday and Thursday west of LZ Leslie. More than 800 pounds of enemy mortar, recoilless rifle and (Cont'd Page 4 Column 1) rockets were fired at the fire base camps of the 3rd Brigade in Wednesday's attacks.

Two enemy were killed by 3rd Brigade and 1st Battalion, 35th Infantrymen in brief fire fights. Two chopper crewmen were killed as gunships received heavy automatic weapons fire while flying in support of ground units.

Fifteen enemy soldiers were killed by Americal's 3rd Brigade, 4th Infantry. One bangalore torpedo, three 60mm mortars, one Chicom mine and two bunkers were destroyed in the "Broncos" area of operation.

In ground action a company killed eight VC in action 15 miles southeast of here. One of the VC was killed in one of the two bunkers destroyed during the day. Two other brigade companies accounted for four more kills in scattered ground action near Binh Son.

Gunships of Americal's 14th Aviation Battalion were credited with three of the kills. They occurred in one contact as "**Sharks** of the **174th Aviation Company** flew in support of ground troops 18 miles south of here.

Units of Americal's 11th Brigade accounted for five dead NVA and 14 suspects were detained in their area of operation.

A brigade company led by CPT Ernest Medina discovered the bodies of five enemy soldiers dressed in NVA uniforms south of Hill 302. They were apparently killed by an artillery strike Wednesday night. A reconnaissance element led by CPT Charles Seketa (Schenectady, N.Y.) uncovered a large cache of miscellaneous articles near the South China Sea coast, east of Hill 49. Included in the cache were sandals, medical supplies, an NVA flag, a watch, documents, an NVA belt, a large amount of Vietnamese currency, a radio and a number of NVA uniforms. Thirteen suspects were detained in that operation. Another suspect carrying a large sum of money was detained by a company led by CPT Roland A. Tuemerson (Red Bluff, Calif). The action took place near LZ Liz north of Duc Pho. Another company led by CPT Patrick Trinkle (Stonewall-on-the Hudson, N.Y.) found 1,000 pounds of rice southwest of Hill 26.

Five civilians were killed yesterday south of Duc Pho on Hwy #1, when their Lambretta bus hit a VC mine.

(Continued)

Fighting units of the Americal's 198th Brigade killed five VC in scattered contacts yesterday.

The bodies of three dead VC were found early yesterday. They had been killed in a battle Wednesday 18 miles southwest of here. Another enemy was killed in the morning by a brigade element operating 15 miles southeast of here. One VC sniper was killed in the afternoon by a brigade command and control helicopter south of here.

Brigade civic action soldiers conducted four MEDCAPs yesterday treating 603 Vietnamese around the Chu Lai area.

Americal's 14th Aviation Battalion flew 437 sorties, carried 739 combat troops and hauled 420 tons of cargo in support of division units yesterday.

Volume 1 No. 272 Americal Daily New Sheet Tuesday January 17, 1968

MIRACLE WEATHER REPORT

Thursday partly cloudy to cloudy. There will be intermittent rain throughout the day. Winds from the northeast at 5-10 miles per hour. High Thursday 80. Low Thursday night 61.

AMERICAL DIVISION NEWS

CHU LAI (AMERICAL IO) – Gunships rained terror from the sky as they played an important role of the day's activities. In numerous air-to-ground contacts, the Americal Division helicopters reported killing 18 of the 25 enemy killed in yesterday's action. Since Jan. 1, 91 Hoi Chanhs have rallied to the government's side, under the Cheiu Hoi (Open Arms) Program. This brings the total number of Hoi Chanhs to 1,205 since Army units moved into the Chu Lai area on April 20.

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Once again gunships swept down from the clear blue sky and accounted for four of the five kills during the day for Americal's 3rd Brigade, 4th Infantry in Operation Muscatine.

"Aloha Airlines" of the brigade's aviation section, operating southwest of here, observed three VC with weapons and engaged them. The three VC were killed and one rifle was captured. in the other air action of the day "Sharks" gunships of the 174th **Aviation Company** observed one VC evading. They downed the VC with a burst of machine gun fire.

In ground action, a unit operating 12 miles southeast of here killed one VC in an early morning contact.

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Volume 1 No. 277 Americal Daily New Sheet Monday January 22, 1968

Miracle Weather Report

Continued partly cloudy with occasional light rain during the morning and night hours. Winds east north east at 5 to 10 miles an hour. Tuesday morning high of 83, low Tuesday night 70.

AMERICAL DIVISION NEWS

CHU LAI (AMERICAL IO) – Units of the Americal Division reported 39 enemy were killed in yesterday's fighting. Over 11 tons of rice were captured by Americal elements in southern I Corps yesterday. Americal forces suffered one U.S. infantryman killed and three soldiers wounded in ground fighting.

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In Operation Muscatine units reported 10 enemy were killed in action south of here. Since Operation Muscatine began in December 366 enemy have been killed and U.S. Forces have reported 26 infantrymen killed and 97 wounded.

In Operation Muscatine units of Americal's 3rd Brigade, 4th Infantry killed five VC, and one NVA, and captured one-half tons of rice.

In ground action, units of the 4th Battalion, 3rd Infantry accounted for a total of four VC killed and one NVA. One M-1 carbine and an M-26 hand grenade were captured during the action. One VC was killed by a company of the 1st Battalion, 14th Infantry. The VC was killed when he was attempting to set a booby trap. One M-26 grenade was captured by the battalion's company.

Four Viet Cong were killed yesterday by Americal's 198th Brigade in action around Chu Lai.

Gunships from Americal's **174th Aviation Company** reported killing two enemy yesterday morning, while they covered the extraction of two brigade companies. Another enemy was killed yesterday afternoon by an element of the 198th southwest of here. The body of a VC, killed Saturday by gunships of the **174th Aviation Company** was spotted by a brigade command and control helicopter.

.....

Vol. 1. No. 278 Tuesday January 23, 1968

MIRACLE WEATHER REPORT
No significant change in the weather for tomorrow. Continued partly cloudy. Winds easterly at 5-12 knots. High for tomorrow 83. Low will be around 70.

AMERICAL DIVISION NEWS

CHU LAI (AMERICAL-IO) --- The brigade's of the Americal Division operating southern I Corps Tactical Zone reported killing 19 Viet Cong and 33 NVA soldiers in action yesterday. Americal units reported one U.S. soldier was killed and three wounded.

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The "Jungle Warriors" of Americal's 11th Brigade killed four VC and detained eight suspects in action around Duc Pho.

Early yesterday morning a company of the 3rd Battalion, 1st Infantry commanded by CPT Stanley Wisnioski (Sugar Notch, Pa) were on a search and destroy mission three miles east of Hwy #1 near the village of Lam Thoung. During a pause in their activities, CPL Philip Krouse (Grants Pass, Ore) decided to check out the area. He noticed a large pile of rubbish and after probing it noticed a concealed trap door. He attempted to open it, but as soon as he did the door was yanked down again. CPL. Krouse called for assistance and the occupants in the tunnel were told to surrender in Vietnamese. After no reply six rounds were fired through the trap door. The order to come out was again given in Vietnamese and after no response a grenade was dropped into the tunnel. SGT Larry Kaker (Cody, Wyo) then entered the tunnel with a .45 caliber pistol and flashlight. He found two dead VC and detained one suspect. The tunnel contained extensive surgical supplies, drugs, anti-malaria tablets, uniforms, and assorted documents. The tunnel was destroyed.

A reconnaissance platoon of the **1st Battalion, 20th Infantry** (A Company) led by 1LT William Adams (Madison, Ind) operating four miles southwest of Duc Pho Killed two VC and captured a Thompson machine gun, a 9mm French machine gun and some homemade grenades. A platoon led by 1LT Christopher H. Lane (Olympia, Wash) spotted 30 enemy while operating with a Popular Forces unit one mile south of Duc Pho. Gunships of the Americal's **174th Aviation Company** gave chase to the enemy on the ground. Artillery was called in and later blood trails were found in the hills west of Hwy #1. In the search after the barrage, two suspects were detained by the unit. Another company of the 1st Battalion, 20th Infantry, commanded by CPT Joe Rhinehart (Canton, N.C.) picked up three suspects from a food carrying party while operating five miles west of Duc Pho. In operations 12 miles northwest of Duc Pho an element of the 3rd Battalion, 1st Infantry's "Always First" led by CPT Patrick Trinkle (Stone-wall-on-the-Hudson, N.Y.) discovered and enemy base camp with natural caves big enough for 15 individuals. Two-hundred pounds of rice, six pairs of pajamas, and medical supplies were uncovered. The unit could not destroy the caves and artillery was called in.

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Vol. 1. No. 317 Saturday March 2, 1968 AMERICAL Daily Newsheet

Datelines -(AP)-

SAIGON -- **Three 100-foot Communist trawlers** loaded with explosives and weapons for the Viet Cong were sunk yesterday and a fourth was chased back into international waters.

Vol. 1. No. 317 Saturday March 2, 1968

Americal (Miracle) DIVISION NEWS

CHU LAI (AMERICAL-IO) --- In the ground war Americal Division forces reported killing 34 enemy in action throughout southern I Corps yesterday. Division units suffered one soldier killed and five wounded and evacuated for treatment.

The combined efforts of an Americal 11th Brigade company, gunships from the **174th Aviation Company** and Navy and Coast Guard boats were instrumental in the sinking of an enemy trawler yesterday morning. The NVA craft, estimated by a MACV ordinance officer to be carrying over 3,000 enemy weapons, was taken under fire four miles southeast of Duc Pho.

Early yesterday morning, a 100 foot NVA trawler was blown up by its crew 50 meters off shore and spew its cargo on the beach. The ship was attempting to dock when Navy and Coast Guard crafts, helicopter gunships, and brigade armored personnel carriers (APCs) took the craft under fire.

The men from a company of the **1st Battalion, 20th Infantry** of Americal's 11th Brigade sorted the enemy weapons like rail clerks. The twisted rifle barrels, trigger groups, machine guns, mortar rounds, grenades, medicine and rations were stacked in separate piles on the beach. The total number of Chicom weapons was set at 747 individual and 16 crew-served.

Six under-water demolition teams found other equipment in the South China Sea which was never recovered. The largest was a 35 foot piece of steel from the hull.

The stacks on the beach numbered 701 K-44s, 46 sub-machine guns, one heavy machine gun, one 12.7 anti-aircraft weapon, 170 rifle grenades, 52 82mm mortar rounds, 27 hand grenades and six 75mm howitzer rounds.

(Continued)

Navy LT Charles Crigler (Starkville, Miss), an intelligence officer from Chu Lai, believed the trawler was lost and meant to dock northeast of Quang Ngai. Swift boats had been following the trawler and the two others like it for 12 hours. The ships had been under air surveillance for two days. "We think one trawler met a similar fate in II Corps, but the other did not come across the 12 mile limit," said LT Crigler.

CPT Sario Carvalho (Ewa Beach, Ha.) "Jungle Warriors" company was alerted to move to the beach. "As we left LZ Carantan we heard the explosion," said CPT Caravalho. "Flare ships, swift boats, gunships, and APCs were firing on the trawler when we moved out. We picked up 139 suspects on either side of the trawler's docking position," said the Infantry Commander.

When the company reached the beach they sealed off the area and began picking up the pieces. At noon yesterday, U.S. and Popular Forces soldiers were still hauling the broken weapons to the beach command post. The serial numbers were recorded and the chunks were thrown into the pile.

The 11th Brigade's commander, General Andy Lipscomb (Bessemer, Ala) commented on the incident. "It may have been just lucky that the trawler happened to come toward shore in our area of responsibility However, the fact remains that the response of the Navy, Coast Guard, a company of the brigade's **1st Battalion, 20th Infantry and** gunships of the **174th Aviation Company** was rapid and effective. As a result of this immediate reaction and cooperation among services, I feel that the destruction of such a large amount of Communist weaponry has hurt the enemy as much if not more than the annihilation of one of his divisions."

[Historian Note: The 161st AHC also was involved in the battle to stop the trawler. Both the 174th AHC and 161st AHC had claimed credit for stopping the trawler.]

Volume 1 No. 318 Americal Daily New Sheet Sunday March 3, 1968

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A combat assault by a Task Force Barker company of the 4th Battalion, 3rd Infantry eight miles northwest of Quang Ngai in the Operation Muscatine area netted five VC kills. "Shark" gunships from the 17th [sic **174th] Aviation Company** flying in support of the 3rd Infantry company killed two enemy shortly after the assault began. Later in the morning the company commanded by CPT Earl R. Michles (Pocahontas, Ark), encountered and killed three Viet Cong and captured an M-2 carbine, and three Chicom hand grenades. Another company of Task Force Barker led by CPT Ernest Medina (Schofield Barracks, Ha), apprehended two suspects after a booby trap they were rigging exploded nine miles north of Quang Ngai.

A small Vietnamese boy led a military police unit commanded by SSG Lones R. Warran (Taylors, S.C.), to an ordinance cache eight miles north of Quang Ngai. The haul included 47 pounds of TNT, 26 M-79 rounds, seven 60mm mortar rounds, six rifle grenades, a claymore mine and 300 rounds of small arms ammunition.

Three evading VC were killed early yesterday morning by a company of the 3rd Battalion, 1st Infantry during operations six miles northwest of Duc Pho. Later the company led by CPT Ronald Tumelson (Red Bluff, Calif), uncovered nearly 8,000 pounds of rice. The rice was evacuated for Civil Affairs use. The unit also evacuated a suspect found in a 60 foot long tunnel.

An ambush from an "Always First" company commanded by CPT Joe Rhinehart (Canton, N.C.), halted two suspects nine miles northwest of Duc Pho. The two attempted to escape arms fire during a sweep three miles north of Duc Pho. A brief exchange of fire left two VC dead.

Another company of the 3rd Battalion, 1st Infantry detained four suspects and found an M-26 hand grenade 13 miles northwest of Duc Pho. In the same area Robert Dickson (Decatur, Ga), uncovered a booby trap. When it was destroyed a secondary explosion occurred.

APCs from "F" [?sic] Troop, 1st Cavalry attached to the 3rd Battalion, 4th Infantry ten manikin like straw dummies in a field two miles north of Duc Pho. the figures looked like soldiers bending over with weapons. When the troops commanded by 2LT Chris Lane (Olympia, Wash), moved in for a closer look three men fled from behind the manikins. The VC have used this tactic often with the addition of mines and booby traps planted around the straw men.

Vol. 1. No. 332 Sunday March 17, 1968
MIRACLE WEATHER REPORT
Scattered cloudiness throughout Monday. Winds variable at 3-5 knots per hour. Scattered rain in the afternoon. High Monday 88. Low Monday night 72.

AMERICAL DIVISION NEWS

CHU LAI (AMERICAL-IO) -- A combat assault into a hot LZ started the day off right for infantrymen in the Task Force Barker area of Operation Muscatine yesterday. By mid-afternoon when the enemy broke contact Americal's 11th Brigade soldiers with support from artillery had killed 128 Viet Cong. The 128 enemy dead was the largest enemy body count recorded by the 11th Brigade for a 24 hour period since they took control of Operation Muscatine. It also is the largest number killed by the "Jungle Warriors" in one day's fighting since they became a part of the Americal Division. ***[Historian Note: This is a report of the infamous My Lai incident]***

Other enemy contact in the Americal's area of southern I Corps resulted in 20 enemy soldiers killed in Operation Wheeler/Wallowa and one enemy death recorded near Chu Lai. Five Americal soldiers were killed and 17 wounded and evacuated for treatment yesterday.

For the third time in recent weeks 11th Brigade infantrymen in Task Barker raided a Viet Cong stronghold known as "Pinkville" six miles northeast of Quang Ngai.

"Jungle Warriors", along with artillery and helicopter support, hit the village of My Lai early yesterday morning. Contacts throughout the morning and early afternoon resulted in 128 enemy killed, 13 suspects detained and three weapons captured.

A Task Force Barker company of the 1st Battalion, 20th Infantry conducted a combat assault west of My Lai and quickly killed one VC while moving away from the LZ. "Shark" gunships from the **174th Aviation Company** killed four more enemy during the assault.

"Aero Scout" helicopters from the 123rd Aviation Company were supporting the infantrymen and killed two enemy. The "War Lords" also located 40 60mm mortar rounds.

The infantry company led by CPT Ernest Medina (Schofield Barracks, Ha), of the 1st Battalion, engaged and killed 14 VC and captured three M-1 rifles, a radio and enemy documents while moving toward the village. One of the ten suspects apprehended by the company told an interpreter that 35 VC had moved into the village two hours earlier.

As the "Warriors" moved through the marshes a miles west of My Lai they counted 69 enemy bodies killed by a battery of the 6th Battalion, 11th Artillery. The battery commanded by CPT Steven Gamble (Portsmouth, N.H.), fired on the enemy from a location approximately three miles to the north.

A platoon of "Barker's Bastards" from the 4th Battalion, 3rd Infantry was airlifted into a position south of My Lai. The unit was led by 2LT Thomas K. Willingham (Clark, N.J.), engaged an unknown number of enemy along the beach one half mile south of the village. When contact was broken 30 Viet Cong lay dead.

Early in the afternoon a platoon observed enemy soldiers escaping into a tunnel complex. Eight of the enemy were killed and web gear, hand grenades, and small arms ammunition was recovered. Three additional suspects were detained in the Operation Muscatine area 11 miles northwest of Quang Ngai.

Vol. 1 No. 337 Friday March 22, 1968 Americal Daily News Sheet

MIRACLE WEATHER REPORT Partly cloudy Saturday with little change. Winds variable at 5-10 knots per hour. High Saturday 95. Low Saturday 73.

AMERICAL DIVISION NEWS

CHU LAI (AMERICAL - IO)-- Operation Wheeler/Wallowa's enemy body count surged over the 7,000 mark yesterday as Americal Forces killed 137 Viet Cong and captured 28 weapons in heavy fighting approximately 25 miles northwest of Chu Lai. Operation Wheeler/Wallowa which began as two separate offensives in the early fall were combined on Nov. 11, 1967. Americal forces are conducting the operation in the northern part of Quang Tin Province and the southern portion of Quang Nam Province. As of yesterday 3,335 NVA soldiers and 3,806 Viet Cong have been killed. There have been 1,089 individual weapons and 238 crew served weapons captured. Americal forces have suffered 521 soldiers killed in the six month old offensive.

Besides the 137 Viet Cong killed by Operation Wheeler/Wallowa forces yesterday another Americal element reported three VC kills. Nineteen infantrymen were wounded and evacuated as a result of yesterday's fighting.

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A reconnaissance platoon of the **1st Battalion, 20th Infantry** killed one VC carrying a gas mask, a VC pack and some documents. Another company of the "Syke's Regulars" detained one suspect who was evacuated for questioning. ***[Above one or both units involved were elements of A Company 1/20]***.

In other Operation Wheeler/Wallowa action Americal's 1st Squadron, 1st Cavalry and supporting gunships met scattered enemy resistance yesterday in an area seven miles northeast of Thang Binh where 111 VC were killed Wednesday. Yesterday the 1st Cavalry units and gunships from "C" Troop, 7th Squadron, 17th Cavalry killed 15 VC as they continued operations in the area.

Naval gunfire and air strikes were called in on suspected enemy locations Wednesday night. Yesterday morning the Americal forces went into police the battlefield and began a sweeping operation to the north and east. Throughout the day sniper and light small arms fire was reported. By dusk the 1st Cavalry units had recorded three VC kills. "C" Troop, 7th Squadron, 17th Cavalry gunships were responsible for 12 of the day's enemy body count as they flew close support and screening missions to back up the ground units.

Three VC were killed yesterday by Americal's 11th Brigade in action in Operation Muscatine and in the Duc Pho area. The "Jungle Warriors" also detained four suspects for questioning.

A "Shark" gunship from the **174th Aviation Company** killed an enemy soldier in the morning while flying support for a combat assault four miles north of Quang Ngai. The VC was carrying a pack, an M-26 hand grenade, and documents.

The brigade's command and control ship was responsible for a VC kill in the afternoon 10 miles southeast of Quang Ngai. The aircraft went in to evacuate the enemy soldier who appeared to be wounded. As the helicopter touched down, the soldier hurled a grenade which bounced off the side of the aircraft and killed the VC.

A VC detainee led a unit of the 11th Brigade to a weapons cache. When he opened the entrance to the cache, an explosion occurred, killing.

A company from Task Force Barker found and destroyed eight hand grenades and a 60mm mortar round during operations 11 miles northeast of Quang Ngai.

Light enemy activity was reported yesterday in Americal' 198th Brigade area near Chu Lai and no enemy were killed.

Volume 2 No. 16 Americal Daily New Sheet Sunday May 5, 1968

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JOIN THE AMERICAL DIVISION VETERANS ASSOCIATION. CHECK WITH YOUR FIRST SERGEANT OR THE INFORMATION OFFICE.

AMERICAL NEWS SHEET
MG S.W. Koster, Commanding General
MAJ Gerald D. Hill jr., IO
Telephone: Chu Lai 3212 or 2414
This News Sheet is published daily under the supervision of the IO, Americal Division APO 96374 as an authorized Army publication. This News Sheet is solely for personnel in the Americal Division and may not be duplicated or released to the news media.

SAIGON – U.S. Marines and South Vietnamese units threw back a division-strength assault by some eight-thousand North Vietnamese on Dong Ha, the big Marine supply base just below the demilitarized zone. The battle started Tuesday, and before the Communists withdrew they had lost at least 856 dead.
[Historian comment: The 3/21st Infantry Bn along with Americal artillery (?) and the 174th AHC participated in this criticql battle. 3/21st Inf. Bn. received a Navy Unit Citation for their actions Operation Napoleon-Saline].

[For more details about this action: Read the book "Magnificent Bastards by Keith Nolan]

Volume 2 No. 28 Americal Daily New Sheet Friday May 17, 1968
(Only the Americal Division news was transcribed from this issue)

MIRACLE WEATHER REPORT

Saturday's forecast calls for fair to partly cloudy skies with southeasterly winds from 5 – 10 knots. The high for tomorrow 98 and the low Saturday night 76.

AMERICAL DIVISION NEWS

CHU LAI (AMERICAL IO) – Action continued sporadic in the Americal Division's area of southern I Corps yesterday. Americal forces killed 15 VC and 18 NVA.

Elements of the 4th Battalion, 31st Infantry ere accredited with all 18 NVA kills in the 196th Infantry Brigade's area of operation.

The battalion accounted for 10 NVA killed when the unit called in an air strike on the enemy six miles south of Que Son. Soldiers of the 4th Battalion, 31st Infantry killed two more NVA when they mortared an enemy sampan 10 miles southwest of Que Son. Infantrymen of the battalion accounted for three NVA when artillery was called in on enemy positions by a reconnaissance element. An aerial observer directed artillery at another group of enemy killing three.

The center of action in Americal's 11th Infantry Brigade shifted to the Operation Muscatine area yesterday as helicopters supporting the 4th Battalion, 3d Infantry killed 10 VC and apprehended 14 suspects. "Jungle Warriors" in the Duc Pho area accounted for three enemy killed and eight suspects detained.

"Shark" gunships from the 174th Aviation Company covering a combat assault 12 miles northwest of Quang Ngai killed seven VC attempting to evade the incoming infantry unit. The "Old Guard" command and control helicopter killed two enemy yesterday afternoon 10 miles northeast of Quang Ngai. Other "Old Guard" infantrymen engaged and killed one VC 10 miles south of Chu Lai.

MEDCAP personnel of the 4th Battalion 3d Infantry treated 103 Vietnamese in Long Lai village five miles northwest of Quang Ngai.

A reconnaissance platoon of the 3d Battalion, 1st Infantry led by 1LT James O'Herron (Winona, Minn.) killed two VC and apprehended three suspects yesterday morning during a sweep four miles north of Duc Pho. A rifle company from the same battalion killed another VC six miles north of Duc Pho.

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AMERICAL NEWS SHEET Vol. 2 No. 128 August 25, 1968

MIRACLE WEATHER REPORT Fair to Partly cloudy with isolated late afternoon showers. Winds at 10 knots from the Northeast. High Monday 100. Low Sunday night 80. (B-6)

AMERICAL DIVISION NEWS

CHU LAI (AMERICAL - IO)--Action increased yesterday in the Americal Division's southern I Corps Tactical Zone as Division forces killed 178 NVA, 30 VC, detained 18 suspects, captured 18 individual weapons and seven crew-served weapons.

In the 1st Squadron, 1st Cavalry's area of operations "Dragoons" and supporting elements killed 177 NVA, captured 16 individual weapons, four crew-served weapons and one flare gun.

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Heavy fighting continued in the Quang Ngai Province yesterday as 11th Brigade "Jungle Warriors" reported 20 VC killed, 18 VC suspects detained, two individual weapons captured, one crew-served weapon and one hand grenade captured.

Following a mortar attack of 81mm and 82mm rounds on LZ Bronco from 0245 to 0315 a "**Shark" gunship of the 174th Aviation Company** with **SP4 Gordon L Knight** (Los Angeles, CA) as gunner, observed and killed seven VC evading from a suspected mortar position near hootches one mile north of Duc Pho.

Later in the morning a sweep was conducted by a squad of a company of the **1st Battalion, 20th Infantry** led by SGT Kermit Williams (Clinton, N.C.) resulting in the recovery of the seven VC killed by the "Shark" gunship plus the capture of an 82mm mortar, three 81mm rounds and one M-2 carbine. The squad later killed one VC dressed in a NVA uniform near the same site.

In action near Quang Ngai City, 3d Battalion, 1st Infantry killed 11 VC and detained 12 suspects yesterday.

A company of the battalion killed two VC trying to break through their southwest perimeter and captured a carbine and one home-made grenade.

During separate actions later in the day the company killed two evading VC, one of them in a sweep of an area after an air strike that left six of the enemy dead.

Another company of the battalion killed one evading VC while another company of the "Always First" detained 12 military age suspects.

Other action resulted in one VC suspect detained by a 1st Battalion, 20th Infantry company near a stream 8 miles south of Duc Pho.

The "Sykes Regulars" also captured medical supplies, documents, an AK-47 cleaning kit, one Chicom grenade, two empty AK-47 magazines and one 30 caliber ammunition belt with 65 rounds on the well armed suspect.

Troops of another 1st Battalion, 20th Infantry company detained five suspects three miles northwest of LZ Bronco. Another Battalion company found one VC body later yesterday afternoon.

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Vol. 2. No. 131 Wednesday August 28, 1968

MIRACLE WEATHER REPORT Fair to partly cloudy skies. Winds at 10 knots from the Northeast. High Thursday 100. Low Thursday night 80 (B-6).

AMERICAL DIVISION NEWS

CHU LAI (AMERICAL IO)- Action slowed in the Americal Division's southern I Corps Tactical Zone yesterday as Division forces accounted for 16 NVA and 14 VC killed, three NVA detained, two crew-served weapons and seven individual weapons captured.

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11th Brigade infantrymen reported four VC killed and two suspects apprehended as light action continued yesterday in the Duc Pho area.

"Always First" rifle platoons of the 3d Battalion, 1st Infantry led by 1LT Vincent Satriano (Chicago,IL) and SSG Raymond Sampier (Valley, Station, KT) killed two VC in separate contacts while conducting combat sweeps north of Duc Pho.

A company of the **1st Battalion, 20th Infantry** killed two VC south of Chu Lai.

"**Shark" gunships from the 174th Aviation Company** responding to a call from 2d ARVN Division soldiers in contact with an estimated VC company yesterday six miles east of Quang Ngai, destroyed ten fortified structures and two machine gun positions with rockets and machine gun fire.

Division forces suffered two soldiers killed and 17 wounded and evacuated for treatment.

Vol. 2. No. 141 Saturday September 7, 1968 Americal Newsheet

MIRACLE WEATHER REPORT SUNDAY Cloudy skies with occasional light rain this morning continuing last this afternoon and tonight. High 95, low 79. Winds northwest at 8 to 12 knots. (B-6)

CHU LAI (AMERICAL IO)--Action increased in the Americal Division's southern I Corps Tactical Zone yesterday as Division forces and supporting elements killed 23 VC, one NVA and captured one crew-served and five individual weapons.

Fighting erupted west of Quang Ngai City yesterday as 11th Inf. Bde. "Jungle Warriors" and supporting elements killed 20 VC, detained 14 suspects and captured one crew-served and four individual weapons.

"E" Troop, 1st Sqdn, 1st Cav. killed one evading VC six miles west of Quang Ngai City.

"Sharks" of the 174th Aviation Company killed two VC in separate actions eight and 10 miles west of the Province Capital.

A 3d Bn., 1st Inf. company killed three VC and captured two AK-47 rifles near a tunnel complex eight miles southwest of Quang Ngai City. Another company of the battalion killed two more VC in a small valley 10 miles west of metropolitan Quang Ngai.

"Aero Scouts" of the 123rd Aviation Bn., led the day's total with 11 VC killed. Ten of the VC killed in action nine miles northwest of Quang Ngai were wearing Khaki uniforms. In that contact one M-1 carbine, one RPG, one AK-50, and documents were captured. "Aero Scouts" killed the other VC near highway 58 in the same site. The "Aero Scouts" also detained five suspects in the area west of Quang Ngai City.

A reconnaissance element of the 4th Bn., 3d Inf. detained six suspects in separate actions. Three of the suspects were captured near a large tunnel complex near a trail seven miles northwest of the Province Capital. Later a 4th Bn., 3d Inf. company killed one VC in the same area.

A 3d Bn., 1st Inf. company detained two suspects west of Quang Ngai. In the same area a 4th Bn., 3d Inf. company detained one VC suspect.

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Vol. 2. No. 151 Tuesday September 17, 1968

MIRACLE WEATHER REPORT

Fair to partly cloudy skies with afternoon and evening showers. High 95, low 78. Winds northeast at 5 to 10 knots. (B-6)

AMERICAL DIVISION NEWS

CHU LAI (AMERICAL IO)--Action was light and scattered yesterday in the Americal Division's southern I Corps Tactical Zone as Division forces and supporting elements accounted for 13 VC killed and two individual weapons recovered.

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Action in the 11th Inf. Bde's. area of operations was light and scattered yesterday as "Jungle Warriors" combined with **"Shark" gunships of the 174th Avn. Co.** to kill four VC and detain 11 suspects.

Elements of the 3d Bn., 1st Inf. detained 10 suspects for questioning in Operation Champaign Grove, 12 miles west of Quang Ngai City yesterday.

11th Bde. MPs led by SSG Lones A. Warren (Greenville, S.C.) and "Sharks" of the 174th Avn. Co. killed four VC and detained one suspect five miles southeast of Duc Pho; as the gunships entered the area they spotted one VC evading to the west.

The helicopters landed and SSG Warren's men took the VC under fire, killing him. Shortly afterward the gunships cornered four VC in a hut. As the MPs approached, the VC fled. The **"Sharks"** killed one of the fleeing VC and MPs killing the two VC and detained the fourth.

Action slowed yesterday as one VC was killed in the 198th Inf. Bde's. area of operations.

"Aero Scouts" of the 123d Avn. Bn. working south of Chu Lai engaged two VC killing one. Four hand grenades were recovered from the VC's body.

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Vol. 2. No. 168 Friday October 4, 1968
MIRACLE WEATHER REPORT
SATURDAY
Mostly Cloudy
Evening Showers
High 90 Low 75
(B-6)

AMERICAL DIVISION NEWS

CHU LAI (AMERICAL IO)--Ten VC killed and three individual weapons captured, was the result of scattered contacts in the Americal Division's southern I Corps Tactical Zone yesterday.

"Jungle Warriors" of the 11th Inf. Bde. reported nine VC killed and one VC suspect detained yesterday.

"Shark" gunships of the 174th Avn Co. destroyed six structures and killed five VC in response to sniper fire, 15 miles north of Duc Pho.

The **"Sharks"** also combined with troops of the 4th Bn., 3d Inf. to kill one VC on a hillside, two miles east of Duc Pho.

Troops of a 3d Bn., 1st Inf. company killed one VC without an ID card near a village four miles north of Duc Pho.

"E" Trp., 1st Cav. combined with infantrymen of the **1st Bn., 20th Inf.** to kill one VC near huts nine miles northwest of Quang Ngai City.

The helicopter of the Bde's S-2 Air, accounted for one VC killed near the Tra Khuc River, 14 miles west of Quang Ngai City.

Yesterday afternoon soldiers of a 4th Bn., 3d Inf. company detained a VC tax collector near a clearing, six miles south of Duc Pho.

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Vol. 2. No. 170 Sunday October 6, 1968 Daily News sheet.

MIRACLE WEATHER REPORT MONDAY Mostly cloudy, Occasional showers. High 95, low 75. (B-6)

AMERICAL DIVISION NEWS

CHU LAI (AMERICAL IO)--Americal Division units accounted for 20 VC and two NVA killed and one individual weapon captured in the southern I Corps Tactical Zone yesterday.

A village cordon operation by the 4th Bn., 3d Inf. led yesterday's action as 11th Inf. Bde. "Jungle Warriors" killed 16 VC and detained 55 suspects in Quang Ngai Province.

The 4th Bn., 3d Inf. cordon operation, seven miles southeast of Duc Pho resulted in 11 VC killed and 29 suspects detained. A company led by 1LT Robert F. Callahan (Ft. Meade, Md.) killed eight of the VC near a trail as the cordon got under way. Another company of the Bn. killed two more VC on separate actions near trails as the round-up proceeded. One 4th Bn., 3d Inf. company found the body of a dead VC near huts. The VC had been killed by 6th Bn., 11th Arty. fire the previous night. At the end of the cordon operation a total of 29 VC suspects had been detained by the "Old Guard" soldiers.

In action late Friday night, troops of a 3d Bn., 1st Inf. company detained 15 VC suspects eight miles north of Duc Pho. In the same area another company of the Bn. detained one VC suspect and killed two VC.

A third company of the "Always First" Bn. detained nine VC suspects--seven near a village three miles north-west of Duc Pho, and two who had no ID cards five miles north of Duc Pho.

"Sykes Regulars" of a **1st Bn., 20th Inf.** company killed one VC after he ran from a hut 11 miles northwest of Quang Ngai City.

"Shark" gunships of the 174th Avn. Bn. killed one VC near a beach seven miles southwest of Duc Pho.

Gunships from the 14th Avn. Bn. killed one VC five miles southwest of Binh Son.

In other action "Aero Scouts" of the 123d Avn. Bn. detained one VC suspect near the Song Ve River, 20 miles southwest of Duc Pho.

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Vol. 2. No. 174 Thursday October 10, 1968 Americal Daily Newsheet
MIRACLE WEATHER REPORT FRIDAY Partly Cloudy High 95 Low 75 1025-2144--Hours of non-moonlight

AMERICAL DIVISION NEWS

CHU LAI (AMERICAL IO)--Thirteen VC and two NVA were killed, two individual weapons were captured, and 15 suspects were detained by Americal Division soldiers and supporting units in the southern I Corps Tactical Zone yesterday.

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11th Bde. infantrymen reported five VC killed, 15 VC suspects detained, and one individual weapon captured as scattered contacts continued yesterday in Quang Ngai Province.

"Shark" gunships of the 174th Avn. Co. killed two VC near Highway 1 in the 4th Bn., 3d Inf. area of operations, one mile northwest of Duc Pho.

"Always First" soldiers of a 3d Bn., 1st Inf. company killed one VC and captured his M-1 carbine 10 miles northwest of Duc Pho.

Near huts five miles west of Duc Pho, troops of another 3d Bn., 1st Inf. company killed a VC. Miscellaneous documents were found on the dead VC's body. Later another VC was killed near the same site by the company.

The reconnaissance element of the **1st Bn., 20th Inf.** detained three VC suspects 11 miles northeast of Quang Ngai City.

Reconnaissance troops of the 3d Bn., 1st Inf. detained two VC suspects, who were carrying medical supplies, five miles north of Duc Pho.

Yesterday morning **"Sykes Regulars"** of a **1st Bn., 20th Inf.** company detained five VC suspects 11 miles northeast of Quang Ngai City.

In an area centered seven miles north of Quang Ngai City, "Aero Scouts" of the 123d Avn. Bn. working with infantrymen of the 1st Bn. 20th Inf. detained two VC suspects in two separate actions.

Yesterday afternoon the 4th Bn., 3d Inf. command and control helicopter detained one VC suspect one mile west of Duc Pho.

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Vol. 2. No. 180 Wednesday October 16, 1968 Americal Daily Newsheet MIRACLE WEATHER REPORT THURSDAY Cloudy Rain Showers High 83 Low 73 1513-0302-hours of non-moonlight.

AMERICAL DIVISION NEWS

CHU LAI (AMERICAL IO)--Americal Division forces accounted for nine VC killed and 23 VC suspects detained in the southern I Corps area yesterday.

The 11th Inf. Bde. reported six VC killed and 17 VC suspects detained in their area of operations yesterday.

A 4th Bn., 3d Inf. company detained 16 VC suspects in an area centered three miles south of Duc Pho.

Another 4th Bn., 3d Inf. company detained one VC suspect four miles southeast of Duc Pho.

"Always First" soldiers of a 3d Bn., 1st Inf. company killed two VC in an area centered six miles northwest of Duc Pho.

"Shark" gunships of the 174th Avn. Co., supporting the 4th Bn., 3d Inf. three miles south of Duc Pho killed one VC.

A 1**st Bn., 20th Inf. company** killed two VC in separate actions nine miles east of Quang Ngai City.

Later near the same site another company of the **battalion** killed one VC.

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Vol. 2. No. 183 Saturday October 19, 1968 Americal Newssheet
MIRACLE WEATHER REPORT SUNDAY Cloudy Rain Showers High 86 Low 74
1711-0542--Hours of non-moonlight

AMERICAL DIVISION NEWS

CHU LAI (AMERICAL IO)--Americal Division units accounted for 40 VC and one NVA killed, 24 VC suspects detained, and six individual weapons captured in souther I Corps yesterday.

-11th Inf. Bde.-

Action in the 11th Inf. Bde. area of operations picked up sharply yesterday. "Jungle Warrior" infantrymen killed 26 VC, detained 10 VC suspects and captured four individual weapons.

The action took place on the Song Ve 12 miles south of Quang Ngai City.

In action beginning just before noon yesterday, **"Shark" gunships of the 174th Avn. Co.** operating with 3d Bn., 1st Inf. soldiers engaged a group of approximately 15 enemy soldiers, killing three VC.

A short time later a 3d Bn., 1st Inf. company commanded by CPT James O'Herron (Winona, Minn.) killed one VC fleeing their combat sweep in the same area.

The action picked up as the 3d Bn., 1st Inf. command and control helicopter engaged three fleeing VC, killing two and detaining the third.

At the same moment, a 3d Bn., 1st Inf. company led by 1LT Larry Birchfield (Albuquerque, NM) reported contact with a company-size enemy element across the Song Ve opposite their position. The "Always First unit called for gunship support.

The company then initiated the action by killing seven VC and capturing two AK-47 rifles.

During the course of the long afternoon battle, the "Always First" unit detained three suspects and captured a K-44 rifle.

Meanwhile, the 3d Bn., 1st Inf. company led by CPT James O'Herron had maneuvered into a blocking position, killing two VC.

A short time later the company killed a lone evading VC. Then a second VC was killed when he tried to recover the first VC's body.

"Shark" gunships accounted for one more VC killed during the afternoon.

"War Lord" gunships from the 123d Avn. Bn. flying in support of the 3d Bn., 1st Inf. killed five VC.

In other action a **1st Bn., 20th Inf** company led by CPT George M. Robb (Strongsville, Ohio) killed two VC and detained three suspects 11 miles northwest of Quang Ngai City.

A 4th Bn., 3d Inf. company commanded by CPT Grady Middleton (Quincy, Fla.) killed one VC, captured an M-1 carbine, and detained three VC suspects five miles southwest of Duc Pho.

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Vol. 2. No. 184 Sunday October 20, 1968 Americal Newsheet
MIRACLE WEATHER REPORT MONDAY Rain, Rain, Rain
High 88 Low 74
0546-1722--Hours of non-moonlight 0% Illumination

AMERICAL DIVISION NEWS

CHU LAI (AMERICAL IO)--Units of the Americal Division accounted for 20 VC and seven NVA killed, 16 VC suspects detained, one NVA detained, and eight individual weapons captured in southern I Corps yesterday.

Action was moderate in the 11th Inf. Bde. yesterday. "Jungle Warrior" units reported 12 VC killed, six VC suspects detained, and four individual weapons captured.

Gunships of the 174th Avn. Co. killed five VC six miles south of Duc Pho yesterday.

A 4th Bn., 3d Inf. company commanded by CPT John J. Murphy (Springfield, Pa.) moved into the area and detained two VC suspects. One of the suspects was carrying a lensatic compass.

One of the VC had been carrying a roster of names and two large propaganda posters.

The company also confiscated one altered ID card and one document believed to be a letter of introduction.

A search of the area turned up one MAS-36 rifle, one M-16 rifle, and one K-44 rifle.

Later the 11th Inf. Bde. command and control helicopter commanded by COL John W. Donaldson (Alexandria, Va.) engaged six VC in the same area. Five VC were killed and one suspect was detained.

The 4th Bn., 3d Inf. command and control helicopter later killed one VC seven miles south of Duc Pho.

A 4th Bn., 3d Inf. company commanded by CPT Grady Middleton (Quincy, Fla.) detained two VC suspects in two separate incidents in the same area.

Later CPT Murphy's company found one M-1 carbine in the area.

A 4th Bn., 3d Inf. recon plt. commanded by 1LT George H. Kinney (Taylor, Mich.) detained one VC suspect five miles south of Duc Pho.

At the same time the "Old Guard" headquarters section, sweeping the same area, killed one VC.

"Shark" gunships supporting the **1st Bn., 20th Inf.** killed one VC 18 miles northwest of Quang Ngai City.

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Vol. 2. No. 257 Wednesday January 1, 1969 Americal Newsheet
MIRACLE WEATHER REPORT THURSDAY Tomorrow's forecast partly cloudy skies with widely scattered showers after 11300. High temp. of 75 and low of 70. Moon rising at 1620 and setting at 0500.

AMERICAL DIVISION NEWS

CHU LAI (AMERICAL IO)--Americal Division forces reported killing one NVA and 38 VC, discovering the bodies of one NVA and one VC, capturing one VC, four individual weapons and a ton of rice, and relocating 84 refugees in heavy action yesterday in southern I Corps.

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Units of the 11th Inf. Bde. and supporting gunships killed one NVA and 21 VC, found one VC body and three weapons, and detained 28 VC suspects in the Duc Pho area.

An early-morning encounter with a large VC force produced nine VC dead and 13 VC suspects detained for **Co. D, 1-20 Inf.** and **"Shark" gunships of the 174th Assault Helicopter Co.**

At 0750 hours, Co. D, led by CPT Jerald D. O'Leary (St. Louis, Mo.) was fired on by an undetermined number of VC and immediately returned fire and called in the **"Sharks."** In minutes the gunships were on target to kill five VC.

Co. D followed the air assault with a barrage that killed four more VC and corralled 13 VC suspects. The action, which lasted only 15 minutes, occurred in and around a village near a lake 10 miles southeast of Quang Ngai City.

Almost 12 hours later at nightfall, Co. D surprised two VC in the same general area and killed both with small arms fire. Cos. **B and C of the 1-20 Inf.** and a supporting element accounted for three VC dead in as many other incidents west of Duc Pho.

"Aero Scouts" of the 123rd Avn. Bn. flying eight miles west of Duc Pho, caught and killed four VC in a clearing.

Three companies of the 4-21 Inf. were busy in an area 20-24 miles west of Duc Pho where two VC were killed, an AK-47 rifle captured and an M-72 LAW rocket found and destroyed. The body of one VC, killed by air strikes, was found in a grave near a stream.

In three incidents south of Duc Pho, units of the 4-3 Inf. killed one VC and detained 14 VC suspects, two of whom presented altered ID cards.

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Vol. 3. No. 7 TUESDAY January 7, 1969 Americal Daily Newsheet
MIRACLE WEATHER REPORT WEDNESDAY Tomorrow's forecast: Mostly cloudy with showers. Winds northerly at 8 to 13 knots. High temperature of 80' with a low of 67'. Moon will rise at 2222 hours and set at 1022 hours.

AMERICAL DIVISION NEWS

CHU LAI (AMERICAL IO)--Operating in heavy rain and high winds throughout most of the day and evening, Americal Division forces reported killing one NVA and 22 VC, detained 19 VC suspects, and captured two individual weapons in light action yesterday in southern I Corps.

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Units of the 11th Inf. Bde. killed two VC and found one NVA body and a weapon and disrupted the enemy's day by detaining 18 VC suspects and raiding a small base camp.

CPT David W. Walsh (Colton, Calif.) unlimbered his pitching arm and killed a VC sniper by tossing a grenade into the VC's spider hole along a ridgeline six miles northwest of Duc Pho. The kill followed three sweeps of the area after CPT Walsh's Co. **A, 1-20 Inf.** troops had received fire. Also netted were an AK-47 rifle with two magazines, and a pack and web gear.

In a delayed report of Sunday evening action, Co. C, 4-3 Inf. engaged and killed one VC after receiving five rounds of M-79 fire four miles south of Duc Pho. Yesterday morning, Co. C detained a VC suspect as he tried to hide a short-wave radio and medical supplies near a lake eight miles south of Duc Pho.

A recon element of the 4-21 Inf. discovered the body of an NVA killed Sunday by small arms fire near a stream 16 miles southwest of Quang Ngai City.

Co. C, 4-21 Inf., operating four miles further east, located a seven-hut base camp and confiscated cooking utensils and 150 pounds of rice.

A Short Range Patrol of the **1-20 Inf.** detained five female VC suspects who had been spotted carrying rice into the mountains by gunships of the **174th Aslt. Hel. Co.** seven miles northwest of Duc Pho. Brief deliberation led to their decision to declare themselves under the Chieu Hoi program.

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Once again, no Americal Division soldiers were reported killed. Ten were wounded and evacuated for medical treatment, according to an initial report.

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Vol. 3. No. 10 FRIDAY January 10, 1969 Americal Daily Newsheet
MIRACLE WEATHER REPORT SATURDAY Tomorrow's forecast: Partly cloudy to mostly cloudy with intermittent showers. Winds northwesterly at 5-10 knots. High temperature of 84' with a low of 68'. Moon will rise at 0003 hours and set at 1211 hours.

AMERICAL DIVISION NEWS

CHU LAI (AMERICAL IO)--Two units led the 198th Inf. Bde. in its heaviest day of action in almost two weeks as contact with enemy troops increased yesterday in southern I Corps.

Americal Division forces reported killing three NVA and 25 VC, detaining three VC suspects, and capturing one individual weapon in the fourth largest day of action since Christmas.

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Units of the 11th Inf. Bde. spent a relatively quiet day and reported only six incidents in which five VC were killed and three VC suspects detained.

Co. C, 1-20 Inf. located the graves of three VC killed in a firefight Wednesday night near a trail six miles west of Duc Pho.

Do. D, 4-21 Inf. spotted 15 VC with packs moving near a stream 19 miles west of Duc Pho and called in an artillery burst from Btry. D, 6-11 Arty. to kill one. Ninety minutes later, Co. B called on the same battery to kill a VC wearing an NVA pistol belt in a draw 25 miles west of Duc Pho.

The VC suspects were detained in separate incidents by **Co. D, 1-20 Inf.**, working with the **174 Aslt. Hel. Co**. north and northwest of Duc Pho, and by Co. C, 4-3 Inf. south of Duc Pho.

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Despite the increased action no Americal Division soldiers were reported killed. Two were wounded and evacuated for medical treatment, according to an initial report.

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US ARMY-WEAR OF THE TROPICAL COMBAT UNIFORM TO AND FROM RVN
Effective 0001 hours 15 Jan 69 the combat tropical uniform (jungle fatigues) will be worn to and from RVN on military and MAC charter flights. The only authorized headgear to be worn while traveling in this uniform is the cap, utility or the green beret for special forces personnel. Boots, combat or jungle, will be worn.
Wearing of the combat tropical uniform will be mandatory for all enlisted grades up to and including first sergeant. Wear of the uniform will be optional for sergeants major, warrant officers, and officers.

Vol. 3. No. 11 SATURDAY January 11, 1969 Americal Daily Newsheet MIRACLE WEATHER REPORT SUNDAY Mostly cloudy with intermittent showers. Winds east-southeasterly at 5-12 knots. High temperature of 84' with a low of 70'. Moon will rise at 0005 hours and set at 1250 hours.

AMERICAL DIVISION NEWS

CHU LAI (AMERICAL IO)--Americal Division forces, routing the enemy in 20 contacts throughout the southern I Corps, registered their highest body count of the new year as the killed 36 VC, found three VC bodies, detained 14 VC suspects, and captured six individual weapons yesterday.

Not since Dec. 31, when the body count reached 41, have Americal troops killed as many VC. Significantly, just as on Dec. 31, no Americal Division soldiers were reported killed yesterday.

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An Americal Long Range Patrol made the effective contact as units of the 11th Inf. Bde. killed 13 VC, found three VC bodies, wounded one VC, and detained seven VC suspects.

A LRP team operating near the Song Ve 12 miles south of Quang Ngai City spotted a VC platoon moving in the low lands and called in the 6-11 Arty. to kill six.

Co. B, 1-20 Inf., patrolling near Highway 515 five miles northwest of Duc Pho, found the bodies of three VC killed by artillery several days ago. In nearby village, Co. B detained seven VC suspects.

Also along Highway 515, a recon element of the **1-20 Inf.** engaged three VC and killed two in a firefight. **Co D, 1-20 Inf.** received sniper fire from an estimated 12 VC and returned fire to kill one 10 miles south of Quang Ngai City.

Co. C, 4-3 Inf. was harassed by snipers about noon four miles south of Duc Pho below Highway 1 and wounded one VC while detaining another. Tow hours later, the "Old Guard" troops returned to the sniper's lair and killed two VC.

A **"Shark" gunship of the 174th Aslt. Hel. Co.** further discouraged VC sniping by killing one VC eight miles west of Quang Ngai City after a Chinook had received ground fire from the area.

Co. B, 3-1 Inf. got the other VC kill in the same area while serving as a blocking force.

In a delayed report, **Co. B?, 1-20 Inf.** received a large amount of enemy ammunition Thursday from Vietnamese civilians taking advantage of the Voluntary Informant Program (VIP). At 1645 hours five miles northwest of Duc Pho Co. B was presented with:

140 Chicom hand grenades, 223 unknown-type hand grenades, 67 M-26 hand grenades, three 4.2 mortar rounds, three 175mm rounds, one Chicom mine, two B-40 rocket rounds, one 81mm mortar round, 11 40mm rounds, and one VC booby trap.

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Vol. 3. No. 12 SATURDAY January 12, 1969 Americal Daily Newsheet

MIRACLE WEATHER REPORT MONDAY

Partly cloudy with intermittent showers. Winds northeasterly at 10 knots, gusting 20 to 25 knots. High temperature of 85' with a low of 70'. Moon will rise at 0152 hours and set at 1335 hours.

AMERICAL DIVISION NEWS

CHU LAI (AMERICAL IO)--Companies of the 3-21 Inf. continued their personal assault on the enemy as Americal Division forces reported killing three NVA and 29 VC, finding one NVA body, detaining 19 VC suspects, and capturing one individual weapon and 6 1/2 tons of rice in southern I Corps yesterday.

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During the afternoon, Co. B, 4-21 Inf. engaged and killed three NVA in a brief firefight 18 miles northwest of Duc Pho. The NVA were wearing green uniforms with pistol belts and ponchos, and one yielded a K-44 rifle with 40 rounds of ammo.

An Americal Long Range Patrol, working 10 miles west of Quang Ngai City watched four VC moving in the area and called in the 6-11 Arty to kill three.

Co. C, 4-21 Inf. discovered the body of an NVA apparently killed several days ago 18 miles northwest of Duc Pho.

Other VC kills went to a **"Shark" gunship of the 174th Aslt. Hel. Co.** a half-mile southwest of Mo Duc, and to **Co. A, 1-20 Inf.** four miles southeast of Quang Ngai City.

Elements of the 4-3 Inf. detained eight VC suspects within three hours in an area four miles southeast of Duc Pho, and Co. A, **1-20 Inf.** detained five in the same area where it killed a VC.

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AMERICAL NEWS SHEET
MG Charles M. Gettys, Commanding
MAJ Paul B. Parham, IO
SP4 Bill Elsen, Editor
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This News Sheet is published daily under the supervision of the IO, Americal Division APO 96374 as an authorized Army publication. Views and opinions expressed are not necessarily those of the Department of the Army.

Five Americal Division soldiers were killed, and 24 were wounded and evacuated for medical treatment, according to an initial report.

Vol. 3. No. 19 SUNDAY January 19, 1969 Americal Daily Newsheet
MIRACLE WEATHER REPORT MONDAY Mostly cloudy with chance of showers in the evening. Winds will be variable at about 5 knots. High temperature will be 84' with a low of 68'. Moon will rise at 0900 hours and will set at 2050 hours.

AMERICAL DIVISION NEWS

CHU LAI (AMERICAL IO)--Americal Division forces reported killing one NVA and 18 VC, detaining 14 VC suspects, and capturing 4200 pounds of rice in light action in southern I Corps yesterday.

Operation Russell Beach produced two VC killed, 1000 pounds o rice evacuated, and several enemy fortifications destroyed as Americal units joined Marine and ARVN troops in advancing their cordon of the Batangan Peninsula.

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Quang Ngai City was the focal point for most of the action in the 198th Inf. Bde. area where 11 VC were killed, including the two in Operation Russell Beach.

Co. B, 4-3 Inf., OPCON to the 198th for Russell Beach, caught five VC digging foxholes on the peninsula eight miles northeast of Quang Ngai City and killed two while capturing one in a firefight. Co. A, 4-3 Inf. evacuated 1000 pounds of rice to the refugee holding center.

Co. D, 5-46 Inf. blew up 310 more meters of tunnel complex to bring to 420 meters the total length of tunnel passage the unit has destroyed in three days.

At 1600 hours, 3470 refugees had been moved off the peninsula to a holding area near Quang Ngai City. Fifty-six had been identified as members of the VC infra-structure. The over-all VC casualty rate stood at 48 at 1900 hours.

Elsewhere in the 198th area, Co. C, 4-21 Inf. killed four VC at 1400 hours four miles northwest of Quang Ngai City. Recovered in the skirmish was a 138-yard bolt of cloth. Nearby, a "Shark" gunship of the **174th Aslt. Hel. Co**. killed a VC fleeing the area.

Co. C, 3-1 Inf. saw more of an elusive NVA unit and killed one in a pre-dawn firefight, while Co. **A, 1-20 Inf**. killed two VC to account for all action in the 11th Inf. Bde. area. Thirteen VC suspects were detained.

Co. C engaged an unknown-size enemy force at 0155 hours and, on a dawn sweep, found a uniformed NVA dead with eight Chicom grenades nearby.

The action occurred near a small village three miles southwest of Quang Ngai City, three miles closer to the city than last Wednesday night's major conflict between the 3-1 and a large NVA force.

Co. A, 1-20 Inf. received sniper fire as it moved along a trail four miles northwest of Duc Pho. Return fire killed a VC, and Co. A later killed another VC in a similar firefight two miles further northwest.

Cos. B and C, 1-20 Inf., operating three miles northwest of Duc Pho, detained four VC suspects, while "Aero
Scouts" of the 123d Avn. Bn. corralled four more just west of Duc Pho.

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Three Americal Division soldiers were killed, and 14 were wounded and evacuated for medical treatment, according to an initial report.

Vol. 3. No. 20 MONDAY January 20, 1969 Americal Daily Newsheet
MIRACLE WEATHER REPORT TUESDAY Fair to partly cloudy. Winds from the southwest by west at 5 knots. High temperature of 86' with a low of 65'. Moon will rise at 0943 hours and will set at 2147 hours.

AMERICAL DIVISION NEWS

CHU LAI (AMERICAL IO)--A surprise attack on the 3-1 Inf. headquarters and more activity than usual in the 1st Sqdn., 1st Cav. area highlighted moderate action in southern I Corps yesterday.

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Americal Division forces reported killing four NVA and 20 VC, detaining 38 VC suspects, and capturing two individual weapons.

Americal units in Operation Russell Beach moved their cordon forward on the Batangan Peninsula and killed on VC while destroying numerous enemy fortifications, mines, and booby traps.

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At 2335 hours Saturday, the 3-1 Inf. headquarters received 35-40 rounds of 80mm mortar fire and a ground attack. An estimated two sapper squads infiltrated the perimeter and detonated hand grenades, satchel charges, and RPG rounds.

American casualties were described as light while enemy casualties were unknown. Enemy RPG fire was directed at the same site late last night but impacted outside the perimeter.

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Co. D, 4-3 Inf. killed a VC near its night perimeter at 2200 hours as Operation Russell Beach wound up its seventh day with 52 VC killed and eight individual weapons captured. Americal units have killed 11 VC and taken four weapons.

The joint forces cordon, which includes the Americal's 5-46 Inf. and 4-3 Inf. as well as Marine, Navy, and ARVN units, moved slowly forward again despite mud, water, and heavy footing.

Working in clear, sunny weather, Americal troops slogged ahead to find and destroy numerous mines and booby traps. Co. C, 5-46 Inf. reported blowing three anti-tank mines in place, and Co. C, 4-3 Inf. halted a VC suspect carrying documents behind the cordon.

Co. A, 5-46 Inf. detained two VC suspects without identification. Further inspection of the hut the pair had vacated revealed 12 claymore mines, two M-14 mines, one unidentified mine, two M-79 rounds, an M-26 grenade, an 81 mm round, and an incendiary grenade.

Forward air controllers of the 198th Inf. Bde. directed several air strikes in the peninsula area, and one resulted in two secondary explosions.

(Continued)

As of 1600 hours, 3646 of the estimated 5000 refugees in the area ha d been processed through the holding center behind the cordon. Sixty-two had been identified as members of the VC infrastructure.

Three VC were killed elsewhere in the 198th area. An aerial observer of the 21st Recon Airplane Co. killed two VC 15 1/2 miles southwest of Tam Ky, and an element of the 1-**52nd Inf.** killed one seven miles southwest of Tam Ky.

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"Shark" gunships of the 174th Aslt. Hel. Co. and Co. A, 1-20 Inf., working together, accounted for five of six VC killed in the 11th Inf. Bde. area. Thirty-five VC suspects were detained.

At 0810 hours, "Sharks" engaged and killed four VC 12 1/2 miles northwest of Duc Pho and, at 16335, Co. A killed an evading VC three miles to the southeast. At 0935, Co. A had detained 26 VC suspects while moving into Mo Duc on Highway 1.

"Aero Scouts of the 123d Avn. Bn. detained four VC suspects in three incidents and killed a VC 6 1/2 miles northwest of Quang Ngai City.

Vietnamese civilians, acting under the Voluntary Informant Program (VIP), turned over the following items to E Trp., 1st Sqdn., 1st Cav. 13 1/2 miles west of Duc Pho.

One 155mm round, five 105mm rounds, four B-40 rockets, 30 60mm rounds, 12 82 mm rounds, 11 81mm rounds, three 3.5 rounds, three Chicom grenades, one M-26 grenade, two M-79 rounds, a bangalore torpedo, an enemy gas mask, and three magazines.

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Three Americal Division soldiers were killed, and 15 were wounded and evacuated for medical treatment, according to an initial report.

Vol. 3. No. 21 TUESDAY January 21, 1969 Americal Daily Newsheet

MIRACLE WEATHER REPORT WEDNESDAY Partly cloudy. Winds from the east at 5-10 knots. High temperature will be about 85' with a low of 68'. Moon will rise at 1022 hours and will set at 2240 hours.

AMERICAL DIVISION NEWS

CHU LAI (AMERICAL IO)--More and heavier contact with NVA troops and continued success in operation Russell Beach that included discovery of almost 15 tons of salt, culminated a busy day in southern I Corps yesterday.

Americal Division forces reported killing 14 NVA and 22 VC, finding two VC bodies, detaining 45 VC suspects, and capturing two individual weapons plus 29,110 pounds of salt and 7450 pounds of rice.

In a contact made in mid-morning and still alive early this morning Co. B, 4-21 Inf. confirmed killing at least three NVA in heavy fighting with an unknown-size enemy force 6 1/2 miles northwest of Quang Ngai City.

While patrolling the area, Co. B received and returned heavy machinegun and mortar fire to start an incident that flared throughout the day and last night when the area was illuminated. Co. A, 4-21 Inf. came to Co. B's aid.

Other units of the 11th Inf. Bde. killed 10 VC, found two VC bodies, and detained 23 VC suspects.

Two companies of the 1-20 Inf. killed four VC apiece, and one found a fifth killed by artillery. Co. E, the 1-20's mortar team, killed four VC in support of Co. A near a small village 10 miles north of Duc Pho.

The 1-20 recon unit engaged six VC and killed four 6 1/2 miles northwest of Duc Pho and, in a report delayed from Sunday night found a VC killed by artillery a half-mile nearer Duc Pho.

"Shark" gunships of the 174 Aslt. Hel. Co. killed two evading VC eight miles north of Duc Pho, and Co. C, 3-1 Inf. found the three-day-old grave of a VC killed by artillery 20 1/2 miles northwest of Duc Pho.

For the third consecutive night the headquarters of the 3-1 Inf. received enemy fire. No report of casualties or damage was immediately available.

No kills were recorded in Operation Russell Beach, but units of the 4-3 Inf. and 5-46 Inf. advanced almost 600 meters their cordon of the Batangan Peninsula, an area 6-10 miles northeast of Quang Ngai City under siege also by Marine, Navy and ARVN elements.

Americal soldiers were involved in seven incidents that saw two weapons captured, 18 bunkers and over 200 feet of tunnels destroyed, and 29,910 pounds of salt and 7450 pounds of rice seized.

In addition, Co. D, 4-3 Inf. was presented with 700 refugees who appeared on the beach after apparently agreeing with the message being broadcast overhead by a 198th Inf. Bde. PSYOP helicopter. That exodus brought to 4564 the number of refugees processed through the holding center behind the cordon.

With two consecutive days of clear weather behind them, Americal units have now destroyed 46 bunkers and over 3000 meters of tunnel complexes in the eight days of Russell Beach. Eleven VC have been killed, and six individual weapons captured.

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Three Americal Division soldiers were killed, and 20 wounded and evacuated for medical treatment, according to an initial report.

Vol. 3. No. 22 WEDNESDAY January 22, 1969 Americal Newsheet

MIRACLE WEATHER REPORT THURSDAY Forecast for tomorrow:: Mostly cloudy with intermittent rain in the morning and showers in the afternoon. Winds from the northeast at 5-10 knots. High temperature of 81' with a low of 70'. Moon will rise at 1059 hours and will set at 2147 hours.

AMERICAL DIVISION NEWS

CHU LAI (AMERICAL IO)--Co. C, 4-3 Inf. killed more VC in slightly over five hours than all Americal units had killed in eight days as Operation Russell Beach and the VC body count sky-rocketed yesterday.

Co. C killed 17 VC trying to break the joint assault force cordon of the Batangan Peninsula to highlight the heaviest action in weeks in southern I Corps where Americal forces killed five NVA and captured seven individual and two crew-served weapons.

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At 0850 hours, Co. C, part of an 11th Inf. Bde. unit OPCON to the 198th Inf. Bde. for Russell Beach, engaged and killed three VC to begin a string of seven incidents behind the cordon line. Co. C killed one VC at 0905 and another at 0915. All fell 6 1/2 miles northeast of Quang Ngai City.

At 1005 and 1115, two more VC were killed a half-mile nearer Quang Ngai City. At 1350, the "Old Guard" troops used 81mm mortar fire to kill six VC and, 10 minutes later killed four more VC with a second 81mm mortar barrage.

Co. C, led by 1LT Ralph Burkhart (Kansas City, Mo.), upped the Americal's Russell Beach total to 30 VC killed. Capture of five weapons by Co. D, 5-46 Inf. brought to 11 the number of individual weapons taken in the operation.

Over-all Russell Beach totals, including those of Marine, Navy, and ARVN elements, are now 83 VC killed and 24 individual weapons taken.

With two units accounting for eight VC apiece, the 11th Inf. Bde. killed five NVA and 24 VC and captured one individual and both crew-served weapons.

"Shark" gunships of the **174th Aslt. Hel. Co**. struck first and last in the area to kill eight VC in three incidents. At 0930, the **"Sharks"** engaged and killed four VC 8 1/2 miles north of Duc Pho. At 1730, two VC were killed in the same place and, 10 minutes later two more were caught six miles north of Duc Pho.

Co. B, 4-21 Inf. found fresh graves of eight VC, five of whom had been killed by small arms fire and three by artillery six miles northwest of Duc Pho.

Co. B, 4-21 Inf. continued its sporadic encounters with an unknown-size NVA force 6 1/2 miles northwest of Quang Ngai City. Co. B added five more NVA kills in three incidents after killing three NVA in Monday fighting in the same area.

Between 1445 and 1640 yesterday, Co. B registered an incident and hour, first killing three of an unknown number of NVA and capturing an AK-47 rifle, and then engaging and killing one each and taking an RPG launcher.

A half-mile away, H Trp., 17th Cav., OPCON from the 198th to the 11th killed three VC and captured an RPG launcher.

An element of the 4-31 Inf. killed four VC in two actions four and 9 1/2 miles west of Quang Ngai City, and the "Aero Scouts" added their third VC kill 11 miles north of Duc Pho.

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Four Americal Division soldiers were killed, and seven were wounded and evacuated for medical treatment, according to an initial report.

Vol. 3. No. 23 THURSDAY January 23, 1969 Americal Daily Newsheet
MIRACLE WEATHER REPORT FRIDAY Forecast for tomorrow: Fair to partly cloudy. Winds east to southeast. High temperature of 86' with a low of 68'. Moon will rise at 1135 hours and will set at 2147 hours.

AMERICAL DIVISION NEWS

CHU LAI (AMERICAL IO)--The 3-21 Inf., pushing its average daily body count to almost six, yesterday added 10 more VC kills to an impressive January total as action in southern I Corps turned moderate and scattered after Tuesday's high incident and enemy casualty rate.

Americal forces reported killing seven NVA and 26 VC, detaining nine VC suspects, finding just under six tons of rice, and capturing four weapons, one crew-served.

Operation Russell Beach also returned to relatively normal action as Co. C, 4-3 Inf., which killed 17 VC Tuesday, logged the only two killed yesterday.

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In Operation Russell Beach, Co. C, 4-3 Inf. continued operations behind the cordon of the Batangan Peninsula and again caught VC trying to flee the besieged area.

At 1255 hours, Co. C engaged five VC five miles northeast of Quang Ngai City and killed two in a firefight. Meanwhile, forward air controllers of the 198th Inf. Bde. directed air strikes in support of the cordon and observed two secondary explosions and 12 secondary fires.

In a delayed report, Co. D, 5-46 Inf. rounded up 81 refugees at 1920 Tuesday after the Vietnamese had crossed a river to surrender. They were moved to the operation's Combined Holding and Interrogation Center near Quang Ngai City.

The CHIC yesterday welcomed 559 more refugees who brought the nine-day total to 6894, including 119 identified as members of he VC infra-structure.

Dr. John Connelly, senior medical advisor in Quang Ngai Province, also reported welcoming a visitor. "We delivered our first baby at CHIC today!"

Americal units in the operation have killed 32 VC and captured 11 individual weapons, while combined Americal, Marines, Navy, and ARVN totals are 90 VC killed and 25 weapons captured.

Elsewhere in the 198th area, seven VC were killed and two individual and one crew-served weapons captured. Five tons of rice were also found.

Co. A, 5-46 Inf. killed three VC and took two AK-47 rifles and an RPG launcher in a VC attack on an observation post at 0417 hours 5 1/2 miles south of Chu Lai. American losses were described as light.

An element of the 1-**52nd Inf**. killed two of the three VC engaged 9 1/2 miles south of Tam Ky, and Co. C, 1-**52nd Inf**. killed a VC 8 1/2 miles southwest of Tam Ky. H Trp. 17th Cav. killed a VC six miles west of Chu Lai.

Working 8 1/2 miles south of Chu Lai, Co. D, 1-6 Inf. discovered five tons of rice and evacuated the cache to the Russell Beach CHIC.

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Cos. A and B, 4-21 Inf. and the NVA continued their encounters 6 1/2 miles northwest of Quang Ngai City. Seven NVA were killed in three incidents, while other units killed four VC, detained nine VC suspects, and destroyed a weapon.

At 1530, Co. B killed an NVA and, 30 minutes later, found the badly-burned bodies of five NVA killed in air strikes within the previous 24 hours. Cos. A had killed an NVA at 0720.

(Continued)

"Shark" gunships of the 174th Aslt. Hel. Co. killed one of two VC seen running nine miles north of Duc Pho. The other, carrying an Ak-47 rifle, scooted into a tunnel which was promptly destroyed.

An element of the 3-1 Inf. twice spotted single VC running in the open and killed both. One was near the Song Tra Khuc 12 miles west of Quang Ngai City and the other on a trail eight miles southwest of Quang Ngai City.

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Five Americal Division soldiers were killed, and 20 were wounded and evacuated for medical treatment, according to an initial report.

Vol. 3. No. 24 FRIDAY January 24, 1969 Americal Daily Newsheet

MIRACLE WEATHER REPORT SATURDAY Tomorrow's forecast: Fair to partly cloudy. Winds variable from the southeast at 5-10 knots. High temperature of 86' with a low of 68'. Moon will rise at 1211 hours and will set at 0020 hours.

AMERICAL DIVISION NEWS

CHU LAI (AMERICAL IO)--For the fourth consecutive day, units of the 4-21 Inf. tangled with element of an unknown-size NVA force 6 1/2 miles northwest of Quang Ngai City--and yesterday the Americans were clear winners.

Action elsewhere in southern I Corps was average as Americal Division forces reported killing seven NVA and 29 VC, detaining eight VC suspects, and capturing three weapons, one crew-served.

For the first time, significant numbers of military-age males turned up in the steady stream of refugees leaving the Batangan Peninsula area in the face of Operation Russell Beach.

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Co. B, 4-21 Inf. killed five of the seven NVA to run the 4-21's total to 20 in four days. Other units of the 11th Inf Bde. killed two NVA and seven VC and captured two weapons, one crew-served, while detaining seven VC suspects.

Co. B, which recorded seven NVA kills Wednesday, added its five by killing two in a firefight and finding three killed by air strikes within the previous 24 hours. No 4-21 soldiers were killed or wounded. Those incidents and discovery of a Chicom machinegun and an AK-47 rifle in a small cache occurred 6 1/2 miles northwest of Quang Ngai City.

In the same area, Co. B, 3-1 Inf. found another NVA killed by air strikes and B Trp., 1st Sqdn., 1st Cav. found an NVA dead in a bunker. Both had died less than a day ago.

Another element of the 3-1 Inf. killed six VC in three actions. Three were killed after attacking the 3-1 element with heavy automatic weapons fire 11 1/2 miles west of Quang Ngai City. Two were killed 16 miles southwest and one 18 1/2 miles southwest of Quang Ngai City within five minutes in the afternoon.

"Shark" gunships of the 174th Aslt. Hel. Co. killed a VC in support of the 1-20 Inf. seven miles north of Duc Pho. The 1-20 also detained six VC suspects.

****

Of 8205 civilians at the Combined Holding and Interrogation Center (CHIC), 6776 are males as more military-age males begin to drift out of the Batangan Peninsula area where two Americal battalions have joined Marine, Navy, and ARVN units in a cordon operation, Russell Beach.

In addition to the 8205 civilians, the CHIC contains 304 refugees, most of whom are being detained as enemy suspects. VC suspects number 129 while 124 have been identified as members of the VC infra-structure.

Yesterday's operation action saw Co. C, 4-31 Inf. catch VC behind the cordon line for the third straight day and kill two. The incident occurred 5 1/2 miles northeast of Quang Ngai City where Co. C has killed 21 VC in three days.

Late last night at 2210 and 2330 hours, H Trp., 17th Cav., moving into the Russell Beach area for the first time, killed four VC in two incidents eight miles northeast of Quang Ngai City.

Forward air controllers of the 198th Inf. Bde. directed air strikes inside the cordon area and reported two secondary explosions and seven secondary fires.

(Continued)

A rear position of Co. C, 4-3 Inf. behind the cordon received eight 82mm mortar rounds at midnight Wednesday, and U.S. casualties were described as light. A nearby refugee holding center, not the CHIC, received 10 rounds of 60mm mortar fire and small arms fire. There were no casualties.

No other major incidents wee reported in the 198th Inf. Bde. area.

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One Americal Division soldier was killed, and 16 were wounded and evacuated for medical treatment, according to an initial report.

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Vol. 3. No. 26 SUNDAY January 26, 1969 Americal Daily Newsheet

MIRACLE WEATHER REPORT SUNDAY Tomorrow's forecast: Mostly cloudy to partly cloudy. Winds southeasterly at 5-10 knots. High temperature of 86' with a low of 70'. Moon will rise at 1331 hours and will se tat 0202 hours.

AMERICAL DIVISION NEWS

CHU LAI (AMERICAL IO)--keeping up northwest of Quang Ngai City and north of Tam Ky, and getting ready to mop up in Operation Russell Breach--that was the story in southern I Corps yesterday.

Americal Division forces reported killing four NVA nd 37 VC, detaining eight VC suspects, and capturing three individual weapons in moderate action.

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Elements of the 4-21 Inf. and 3-1 Inf. continued their sweep of the cordoned Buff Triangle area 6 1/2 miles northwest of Quang Ngai City where more than 100 NVA have been subjected to a heavy land and air bombardment since Monday.

Two NVA and two VC were killed yesterday to bring the six-day total to 37 NVA and 11 VC killed Co. C, 3-1 Inf. found and NVA and a VC killed by artillery and killed an NVA who walked into an ambush at 0230 hours. Co. A, 4-21 Inf. killed the other VC.

Near a small village, the triangular cordon enclosed a one-mile area described by observers as "looking" like the face of the moon" after air strikes and artillery shelling. Laced with tunnels and bunkers, the village area apparently served as staging quarters for between 100-200 NVA troops.

Cos. A, C and recon of the 4-21 Inf., and Cos. B and C, 3-1 Inf. found and destroyed six tunnels measuring 170 feet in length and destroyed 1850 pounds of rice in four caches yesterday. Another half-ton of rice was evacuated. Co. A also found a K-44 rifle and an unidentified submachinegun in a tunnel.

More NVA bodies are thought to be in the triangle. Tunnels up to 40 feet deep have been discovered, and scattered resistance has been met since the air strikes.

Seven VC were killed and eight VC suspects detained elsewhere in the 11th Inf. Bde. area.

Gunships accounted for three kills as "Aero Scouts" of the 123d Avn. Bn. killed two VC in separate incidents seven miles west and 12 miles south of Quang Ngai City and "Sharks" of the **174th Aslt. Hel. Co.** killed one 5 1/2 miles north of Duc Pho. As the **"Shark"** worked overhead, the recon unit of the 1-20 Inf. rounded up six VC suspects.

Co. D, 1-20 Inf. found fresh graves of three VC killed by artillery within the previous 24 hours 9 1/2 miles southeast of Duc Pho.

(Continued)

An element of the 3-1 Inf., working 12 1/2 miles southwest of Quang Ngai City, killed a VC trying to hide a bicycle in a hedgerow. The bike had been rigged to carry rice or mortars.

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Co. D, 4-3 Inf. killed three VC in as many incidents and captured a weapons as the joint forces cordon of the Batangan Peninsula neared a final push forward.

The line of Americal, Marine, and ARVN troops has narrowed from 11 1/2 miles at the start of Operation Russell Beach to just under three miles wide. Once about eight miles from the sea, the cordon is now within 2 1/2 miles of forcing an estimated one or more VC battalions into fighting or swimming.

As Marines and ARVN elements joined Americal's 4-3 and 5-46 Infs. and H Trp., 17th Cav. on line yesterday, the cordon plowed ahead through dense minefields, booby traps, and tunnel complexes.

Co. D, 4-3 Inf. killed one VC trying to escape the cordon in a smallboat and later killed two more VC in the same area nine miles northwest of Quang Ngai City. In a tunnel, Co. D found five VC suspects, two of them female, a French submachinegun, and three grenades. One young VC surrendered earlier to Co. D as a Chieu Hoi.

An element of the 3-25 **[?3-26]** Marine Regt. met 420 civilian refugees at the northern end of the cordon and took them through the line. As of 1600, 9523 refugees had been moved off the peninsula, with 137 of them confirmed VC infrastructure members and 153 VC suspects.

Americal totals in the 13-day operation are 49 VC killed and 14 individual weapons taken. Over-all totals show 113 VC killed and 29 weapons captured.

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No Americal Division soldiers were killed, and four were wounded and evacuated for medical treatment. Twelve Marines were killed, and 38 were wounded and evacuated for medical treatment. All casualty figures were based on initial report.

Vol. 3. No. 27 MONDAY January 27, 1969 Americal Daily Newsheet
MIRACLE WEATHER REPORT TUESDAY Tomorrow's forecast: Fair to partly cloudy. Winds from the southeast at about 10 knots. High temperature of 88 with a low of 70. Moon will rise at 1415 hours and will set at 0254 hours.

AMERICAL DIVISION NEWS

CHU LAI (AMERICAL IO)--Two units of the 11th Inf. Bde., supported by gunships stayed at the heels of scattering NVA and VC west-northwest of Quang Ngai City, and cavalry units joined Operation Russell Beach to highlight Americal Division action yesterday.

Americal forces reported killing nine NVA and 28 VC, finding one VC body, detaining 10 VC suspects, and capturing four individual weapons and 3450 pounds of rice in southern I Corps.

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Day-long sweeps in an area 7-8 miles west-northwest of Quang Ngai City from the Buff Triangle south of the Song Tra Khuc netted three NVA and 10 VC killed and two weapons captured by elements of the 3-1 Inf. and 4-21 Inf. and **"Shark" gunships of the 174th Aslt. Hel. Co.**

Elsewhere in the 11th Inf. Bde. area, other units of the 3-1 Inf. killed six NVA and four VC.

Yesterday's sweep came after six days of fighting an NVA force concentrated in a one-mile area 6 1/2-7 miles northwest of Quang Ngai City. Americal troops swept that area and from 2-3 miles south to the Song Tra Khuc.

Co. A, 4-21 Inf. killed two NVA and captured their rifles, an M-16 and an AK-47, and Co. B, 3-1 Inf. killed the other NVA and found 1850 pounds of rice.

Co. A also killed two VC in one incident, while the 4-21 recon unit killed three VC in as many encounters. Cos. B and C, 4-21 Inf. each killed a VC and another element of the 4-21 also killed one.

Co. C, 3-1 Inf. killed one VC, and the "Sharks" killed the other in the sweep area.

Three units of the 3-1 were involved in all action beyond the sweep. In two incidents, Co. D killed four NVA of seven engaged and then one VC 14 miles southwest of Quang Ngai City. A half-mile away, the 3-1 recon unit engaged 10 NVA and killed two with mortar fire.

Another element of the 3-1 killed three VC in two actions 17 1/2 miles southwest of Quang Ngai City.

(Continued)

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A Trp., 1st Sqdn., 1st Cav. and H Trp., 17th Cav. joined Americal, Marine, Navy, and ARVN forces early this morning as Operation Russell Beach continued to press forward and the cordon of the Batangan Peninsula where one or more VC battalions are reportedly trapped.

Cavalry units made a beach landing to link with Americal's 5-46 Inf. as part of the cordon waited on the western bank of the Song Chau Me Dong, last natural barrier to a sweep to the sea.

Units of the Americal's 4-3 Inf. killed a VC and captured two weapons in slim action yesterday as the cordon advanced cautiously through mined and tunnel-laced areas. The 4-3 recon unit killed the VC 9 1/2 miles northeast of Quang Ngai City, close to two spots where Co. D found an M-1 rifle and M-1 carbine.

The carbine was turned up in a tunnel after two Hoi Chanhs told D Co. they had seen a VC intelligence representative in the area carrying a U.S. carbine. A reinforced D Co. patrol found the carbine and personnel items in the tunnel but failed to locate the VC.

Near that find, the patrol discovered a large tunnel complex dug into the side of a hill. Tunnel rats reported searching 400-500 meters and finding cubbyhole sleeping niches carved every five meters. Estimates were that more than 300 people could sleep there and that the tunnel had been used within the previous 24 hours.

Refugees continued to pour out of the area as 829 more were removed tot he holding center where 10,357 refugees have been processed, with 142 confirmed as VC infra-structure members and 192 classified as VC suspects. Twenty-four babies have been born in the 14-day existence of the refugee center.

No major incidents were reported elsewhere in the 198th Inf. Bde. area.

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One Americal Division soldier was killed, and 22 were wounded and evacuated for medical treatment. Seven Marines were killed, and two were wounded and evacuated for medical treatment. All casualty figures were based on initial reports.

Vol. 3. No. 28 SUNDAY January 28, 1969 Americal Daily Newsheet
MIRACLE WEATHER REPORT WEDNESDAY Tomorrow's forecast: Fog in the morning in valleys and low areas. Fair to partly cloudy. Winds from the southeast at 5-15 knots. High temperature 90' with a low of 70'. Moon rise at 1503 hours, set at 0347 hours.

AMERICAL DIVISION NEWS

CHU LAI (AMERICAL IO)--It's a case of "any day now" in Operation Russell Beach and a case of "every day now" to the west-northwest of Quang Ngai City.

Preparations for a final surge forward continued yesterday on the Batangan Peninsula while, some 12 miles west, units of the 11th Inf. Bde. pounded scattered VC elements in the 11th's biggest day in weeks.

Americal Division forces reported killing 64 VC, detaining 15 VC suspects, and capturing slightly over a ton of rice in southern I Corps. For the first time in 14 days, no NVA were encountered.

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Three companies of the 5-46 Inf. crossed the Song Chau Me Dong to join A Trp., 1st Sqdn., 1st Cav. and H Trp., 17th Cav. on the east bank in preparation for today's Russell Beach probe of approximately 1 1/2 miles between cordon and sea.

When the entire cordon moves across the river, Cos, B, C, and D, 5-46 Inf. will line up with Co. D, 4-3 Inf. and two Marine companies to lead the way. Other 5-46 and 4-3 Inf. units remain behind the narrowing line to conduct sweeps with Marine and ARVN elements. Navy ships still stand off shore.

In four brief skirmishes yesterday, Co. C, 4-3 Inf. killed three VC behind the cordon 5 1/2 miles northeast of Quang Ngai City, and Co. B, 5-46 Inf. found a VC killed by small arms fire in the cordon area four miles further northeast. Cos. C also found a 600-pound rice cache.

Marine units discovered the intricate tunnel complexes in the immediate cordon area. Co. M, 3-26 Regt. searched a 25 by 30-foot complex consisting of 10 tunnels leading to a large center area recently occupied, and Co. L, 3-26 entered a 500-foot tunnel complete with brick and concrete reinforcements and branch tunnels.

PSYOP missions encouraged 334 more refugees to leave the peninsula area and brought to 10,691 the number who have fled since Russell Beach began 115 days ago. More than 350 refugees are confirmed VC, and 121 VC have been killed in the operation.

(Continued)

Elsewhere in the 198th Inf. Bde. area, Co. C, 1-**52nd Inf.** engaged three VC and killed two 8 1/2 miles southwest of Tam Ky, and Co. D, 1-6 Inf. found 1000 pounds of rice six miles south of Chu Lai.

Three ground units and air elements killed 40 VC in 15 clashes in the 11th Inf. Bde. area where heavy action was centered for the eighth consecutive day from 5-8 1/2 miles west-northwest of Quang Ngai City. Fifteen VC suspects were detained.

In one of the largest single-unit encounters in the last month, the recon unit of the 4-21 Inf. battled 13 VC in an extended firefight that left 11 VC dead and two wounded but able to avoid capture 8 1/2 miles northwest of Quang Ngai City. the dead carried VC ponchos and wore new clothing. No Americans were killed or injured in the encounter.

Three miles below that action, Co. A, 4-21 Inf. killed three VC in two incidents and detained three VC suspects.

"Shark" gunships of the 174th Aslt. Hel. Co., working with Co. A, 1-20 Inf., killed seven VC in two actions eight miles north and 15 1/2 miles northwest of Duc Pho. "Sharks" engaged eight VC and killed four in one incident and engaged and killed three for Co. A, which killed one VC and then found the buried bodies of five killed by artillery fire.

Co. D, 1-20 Inf. killed two VC in separate incidents 12-12 1/2 miles southeast of Duc Pho, and Co. C, 3-1 Inf. killed a VC six miles northwest of Quang Ngai City.

Another element of the 3-1 Inf. killed nine VC in four encounters from 12-13 miles west-southwest of Quang Ngai City, and an element of the 4-21 Inf. found a VC killed by air strikes six miles northwest of Quang Ngai City.

Three units found small rice caches totaling 550 pounds in the area of heaviest action west-northwest of Quang Ngai City.

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Three Americal Division soldiers were killed, and 22 were wounded and evacuated for medical treatment. No Marines were killed, and tow were wounded and evacuated for medical treatment. All casualty figures were based on initial reports.

*****

Vol. 3. No. 29 WEDNESDAY January 29, 1969 Americal Daily Newsheet
MIRACLE WEATHER REPORT THURSDAY Tomorrow's forecast: Partly to mostly cloudy in the morning, becoming partly cloudy in the afternoon. Winds will be from the southeast at 5-10 knots. High temperature 90 with a low of 74. Moon will rise at 1554 and set at 0440.

AMERICAL DIVISION NEWS

CHU LAI (AMERICAL IO)--VC elements on the Batangan Peninsula are gradually being denied use of the clever, intricate, and well-used complex of bunkers and tunnels lacing the peninsula area.

Major contact with enemy troops failed to materialize again yesterday in Operation Russell Beach as Americal and Marine units poked through 21 tunnels and the familiar maze of booby traps.

Including the one VC body found in the operation, Americal Division forces throughout southern I Corps reported killing one NVA and 27 VC, finding the bodies of an NVA and a VC, and capturing six individual weapons in light action.

****

Co. C, 5-46 Inf. found the two week-old body of a VC killed by small arms fire nine miles northeast of Quang Ngai City, and Marine
Co. L, 3-26 Regt. captured two SKS rifles and an M-2 carbine while searching a tunnel on the cordon line 11 miles northeast of Quang Ngai City.

Co. L had previously searched a tunnel with no results, although many of the 21 tunnels searched showed evidence they had been occupied recently.

Co. D, 5-46 Inf. found 17 tunnels in three incidents, including discovery of one complex with 13 tunnels of various size. Co. D also found a 10 by 20 foot room under the false floor of a hootch. Everything was destroyed.

Co. B, 5-46 Inf. found and destroyed 10 bunkers, and Co. C, 5-46 Inf. found a dud 250-pound bomb.

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Action in the 11th Inf. Bde. area was again centered to the west-northwest of Quang Ngai City where two units discovered on NVA body and killed eight VC. Other 11th elements killed on NVA and eight VC and captured an AK-47 rifle.

The recon unit of the 4-21 Inf. returned to the scene of Monday's heavy fighting near a small village eight miles northwest of Quang Ngai City and located the graves of five VC killed in that fight. The recon unit, which received sniper fire in the area, had killed 11 VC in one firefight there Monday.

(Continued)

A mile further northwest, Co. A, 4-21 Inf. killed a VC and, 5 1/2 miles north-northwest of Quang Ngai City, Co. B, 4-21 Inf. found the week-old body of an NVA killed by artillery fire.

Six miles northwest of Quang Ngai City, Co. B, 3-1 Inf. found two VC killed by small arms and artillery fire and destroyed 800 pounds of rice, two tunnels, and three bunkers in five incidents.

Southwest of Quang Ngai City, elements of the 4-31 Inf. killed and NVA and five VC. Co. D engaged three NVA, killed one, and took his AK-47 rifle, 12 1/2 miles southwest where another 4-31 element earlier found three VC killed by artillery fire. That element then killed two VC five miles further southwest.

"Shark" gunships of the 174th Aslt. Hel. Co., continuing a string of successful missions in the past week, engaged and killed three VC five miles north of Duc Pho while supporting Co. A, 1-20 Inf. in day-long operations.

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One Americal Division soldier was wounded and evacuated for medical treatment according to an initial report. No Marines were reported killed or injured.

Vol. 3. No. 30 THURSDAY January 30, 1969 Americal Daily Newsheet
MIRACLE WEATHER REPORT THURSDAY Tomorrow's forecast: Partly to mostly cloudy in the morning, with occasional showers in the afternoon. Winds will be variable at 5-10 knots till noon, then becoming northeasterly at 5-15 knots. High temperature of 87' with a low of 74.

AMERICAL DIVISION NEWS

CHU LAI (AMERICAL IO)--Tunnels, mines, and booby traps to the front and signs of VC to both front and rear that's the situation today as Operation Russell Beach enters its 18th day on the Batangan Peninsula.

American and Marine units reported 14 VC killed and 13 weapons captured, five of them crew-served, yesterday in addition to 10 incidents in which tunnels, bunkers, mines, booby traps, supplies and ammo were found.

Including Russell Beach, Americal forces throughout southern I Corps reported killing one NVA and 45 VC, finding three VC bodies, and capturing 22 weapons, five crew-served.

****

All VC kills and weapons captures in Russell Beach came in eight incidents involving four Americal units and a Marine company.

At 0005 hours, an estimated VC squad struck an Americal night position two miles behind the main cordon line on the peninsula. Co. C, 4-3 Inf.; H Trp., 17th Cav.; and Co. B, 26th Engr. Bn. received RPG, 82mm mortar, and automatic weapons fire and a ground probe.

Return fire killed six Vc and led to capture of two AK-47 rifles and an AK-50. No Americans were killed.

In separate incidents nearby, Co. C, 4-3 Inf. killed two VC and captured two .30-cal machineguns and a 60mm mortar tube after digging up a grave. In a nearby rice paddy dike, Co. C found 200 M-60 rounds, 400 .30 cal rounds, and a 25 pound shaped charge.

Marine Co. K, 3-26 Regt. found the bodies of five VC killed by air strikes in two graves 11 miles northeast of Quang Ngai City near the cordon line. Co. K later killed a VC in a tunnel.

Other weapons caches were found well behind the cordon 7 1/2 miles northeast of Quang Ngai City by HQ Co., 4-3 Inf., and H Trp. HQ turned up five M-1 carbines, and H Trp. found a rocket launcher and a BAR.

(Continued)

Among other items found were six beer cans fashioned into concussion grenades packed with explosives and tipped with blasting caps, two tunnels so new that tools use to dig them were found nearby, two 20mm casings with .50 cal rounds attached to form booby traps, and a collection of pots and pans.

No other major incidents were reported in the 198th Inf. Bde. area.

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The recon unit of the 4-21 Inf. spent a third successful day above Quang Ngai City and recorded five more VC slain as units of the 11th Inf. Bde. killed 11 VC and found three VC bodies.

Led by 1LT Robert McEldowney (Hilo, Hawaii), the 4-21 recon unit killed a VC 10 miles northwest of Quang Ngai City and then engaged and killed four VC a half-mile away. Recon has accounted for 21 VC dead in three days.

Operating in the area where prolonged fighting occurred last week, Co. A, 4-21 Inf. found three more VC, all killed 5-7 days ago five miles north-northwest of Quang Ngai City.

"Shark" gunships of the 174th Aslt. Hel. Co. killed a VC 12 miles southwest of Quang Ngai City. There and six miles further southwest, an element of the 3-1 Inf. killed five VC in two actions.

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One Americal Division soldier was killed, and 14 were wounded and evacuated for medical treatment. Four Marines were killed, and three were wounded and evacuated for medical treatment. All casualty figures were based on initial reports.

Vol. 3. No. 31 FRIDAY January 31, 1969 Americal Daily Newsheeet
MIRACLE WEATHER REPORT SATURDAY Mostly cloudy in the morning, with possibility of rain in the afternoon. Winds will be from the northeast at 5-10 knots. High temperature will be 82' with a low of 70'. Moon rise will be at 1742 hours and set at 0618 hours.

AMERICAL DIVISION NEWS

CHU LAI (AMERICAL IO)--Excellent coordination between ground and air elemetns helped the 11th Inf. Bde. to the lead among Americal units as action picked up yesterday in southern I Corps.

Americal forces reported killing five NVA and 51 VC, finding one VC, detaining eight VC suspects, and capturing seven weapon, one crew-served.

In Operation Russell Beach, two VC were killed, one VC body found, and one weapon captured as Americal and Marine units pressed through more mines, booby traps, and tunnels in their cordon of the Batangan Peninsula.

****

Of 37 kills in the 11th Inf. Bde. area, 25 were by air elements as five NVA and 32 VC were killed and three weapons captured one crew-served.

In the day's largest encounter, the command and control helicopter of the 3-1 Inf. engaged an unknown-size enemy force 11 miles west-southwest of Quang Ngai City at 1115 hours and killed five NVA and seven VC.

At 1000 and 1010, the C&C killed two more VC 12 1/2 miles west-southwest of Quang Ngai City.

"Sharks" to the 174th Aslt. Hel. Co. engaged and killed eight VC eight miles west-northwest of Quang Ngai City. **"Sharks"** have killed 19 VC in the past four days and 38 in the past two week.

The other gunship kill went to "Aero Scouts" of the 123d Avn. Bn. 13 miles northwest of Duc Pho.

The recon unit of the 4-21 Inf. upped its four-day body count to 25 VC by killing four more in three incidents nine miles northwest of Quang Ngai City. One carried black cloth and 25 feet of det cord. Nearby, Co. A, 4-21 Inf. found a VC killed by artillery and killed by artillery and killed by artillery and killed a VC in a firefight.

The recon unit of the 1-20 Inf. called in artillery fire to kill two VC running into a hut six miles west of Duc Pho, and Co. B, 1-20 Inf. killed two VC in two incidents foru miles nearer Duc Pho.

(Continued)

Co. C, 3-1 Inf. killed two VC seven miles west-northwest of Quang Ngai City after finding a weapons cache nearby earlier, Included were a 60mm mortar tube, a 16-guage shotgun, and a rifle of undetermined origin. All were heavily rusted.

*****

Action tapered off in Operation Russell Beach where Co. A, 5-46 Inf. found the four-day-old body of a VC killed by air strikes; HQ Co., 4-3 Inf. killed a VC; and Marine Co. M, 3-26 Regt. killed two of the three VC engaged. All were killed behind the main cordon line.

Elements of the main line moved forward approximately 500 meters and again encountered numerous mines and booby traps. Co. M also found and destroyed a tunnel complex and took documents from another tunnel.

Co. A, 5-46 Inf. was being led by a Hoi Chanh to a tunnel complex when the Hoi Chanh stepped on a mine or booby trap, killing himself. No Americans were killed.

*****

Fifteen Americal Division soldiers were wounded and evacuated for medical treatment, as were two Marines. All casualty figures were based on initial reports.

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Vol. 3. No. 34 MONDAY February 3, 1969 Americal Daily Newsheet
MIRACLE WEATHER REPORT TUESDAY Tomorrow's forecast calls for partly cloudy skys. Winds will be northeasterly at 5-10 knots. High temperature will be about 85' with a low of 68'. The moon will rise at 2019 hours and will set at 0823 hours.

AMERICAL DIVISION NEWS

CHU LAI (AMERICAL IO)--Scattered resistance and moderate action prevailed as Operation Russell Beach yesterday wound up its third week on the Batangan Peninsula with two Marine companies on the northern beaches and more Americal and marine units nearing the central and southern coasts.

Action was also moderate throughout southern I Corps as Americal Division forces reported killing 41 VC, finding one VC body, detaining 18 VC suspects, and capturing six weapons.

****Marine Co. I, 3-26 Regt., working behind the cordon, and three Americal units found, three VC suspects held, and six M-72 LAW rockets taken in Russell Beach.

At 0550, Co. I killed two VC 11 miles northeast of Quang Ngai City and, nearly 15 hours later, engaged eight VC nearby and killed four. Co. I was cleaning up behind Cos. K and M, 3-26 Regt. which moved to the northern edge of the peninsula Saturday.

Co. C, 4-3 Inf. found and M-72 nine miles northeast of Quang Ngai City and , two hours later, found the body of a VC killed several days ago by small arms fire nearby. Another 4-3 element killed a VC a mile further back.

H Trp., 17th Cav., working with an ARVN unit, caught three VC suspects carrying five M-72 LAWs on the southern edge of the beach nine miles east-north-east of Quang Ngai City.

Co. M, 3-26 Regt., poking through a small village on the northern coast, found a VC hiding, 150 pounds of rice and 150 of corn, and an ammo can rigged into a booby trap with an 82mm mortar.

Near the central coast, Co. D, 5-46 Inf. discovered and destroyed two small tunnels and found three tunnels caved in by previous air strikes in the area.

There were no Americal or Marine casualties on the peninsula.

****

Led by **"Shark"** gunships of the **174th Aslt. Hel. Co.,** units of the 11th Inf. Bde. killed 20 VC and detained 12 VC suspects in seven incidents.

(Continued)

Between 0820 and 0855, **"Sharks"** killed nine VC in three encounters seven miles northwest of Quang Ngai City. Nearby, Co. B, 4-21 Inf. found and destroyed a tunnel 160 meters long.

In mid-afternoon, Co. D, 3-1 Inf. received heavy small arms fire and returned it along with an artillery barrage to kill six VC 19 1/2 miles southwest of Quang Ngai City. Six miles closer to Quang Ngai, the 3-1 recon unit engaged four VC and killed two.

Co. A, 4-21 Inf. killed a VC and detained a VC suspect, and Co. B, 4-21 Inf. detained six VC suspects 7 1/2 miles west-northwest of Quang Ngai City. Co. B, 1-20 Inf. killed two VC 5 1/2 miles northwest of Duc Pho.

Military Police at 11th Inf. Bde. headquarters detained five military-age males.

....

Two Americal Division soldiers were wounded and evacuated for medical treatment, according to an initial report. For the second consecutive day, no Americal or Marine soldiers were killed.

Vol. 3. No. 37 Thursday February 6, 1967 [sic] (1969)
MIRACLE WEATHER REPORT FRIDAY Tomorrow's forecast calls for mostly cloudy skys with chance of light rain. Winds will be from the northwest at 5-10 knots. High temperature will be about 72 with a low of about 63. Moon rise will be at 2252 hours and will set at 1012 hours.

AMERICAL DIVISION NEWS

CHU LAI (AMERICAL IO)--Four days into its fourth month, Operation Vernon Lake II is paying dividends slightly higher than those totaled yesterday by four 11th Inf. Bde. units which killed 11 VC and captured five weapons without a casualty.

Action throughout southern I Corps warmed up in proportion to plummeting temperatures as Americal Division forces reported killing four NVA and 43 VC, detaining 13 VC suspects, capturing six individual weapons, and finding three tons of rice.

In Operation Russell Beach, the entire Americal-Marine cordon completed its sweep to the tip of the Batangan Peninsula and began the task of securing rear areas and establishing a forward base of operations.

****

Including action in Vernon Lake II, units of the 11th Inf. Bde. killed four NVA and 33 VC, captured five weapons, and found and destroyed three tons of rice. Eight of 11 encounters with enemy forces took place 8 1/2 - 12 miles west-northwest and west-southwest of Quang Ngai City.

In Vernon Lake II, Cos. A, D, and the recon unit of the 3-1 Inf. each killed two VC in three incidents and captured five weapons within five minutes in three different areas.

At 1145 hours Co. D killed two VC 12 miles west-southwest of Quang Ngai. At the same time 14 1/2 miles southwest of Quang Ngai, recon killed two VC and, at 1150, Co. A killed two 13 miles southwest. At 1420, Co. D found two M-2 carbines and three homemade weapons near the scene of its kills.

A UH-1 helicopter, working with the 3-1 Inf., brought the Vernon Lake II totals to 11 VC killed by finding the bodies of five VC killed by artillery within the previous 12 hours 11 miles west-southwest of Quang Ngai.

Since Vernon Lake II began Nov. 2, Americal forces have killed 111 NVA and 183 VC, found 34 NVA and 37 VC bodies, detained 96 VC suspects, and captured 139 weapons, five crew-served. Fewer than 25 Americans have been killed during the operation.

Moving into a marshy area near the Song Tra Khuc 11 miles west-northwest of Quang Ngai at 1300, the recon unit of the 4-21 Inf. was quickly embroiled in three incidents.

(Continued)

(Continued)

Recon first found the bodies of five VC killed within the previous hour by **"Shark" gunships of the 174th Aslt. Hel. Co.**, then almost immediately engaged an unknown -size enemy force and killed seven VC. Twenty minutes later recon engaged and killed four more VC there.

At 1130 in the same area, the 3-1 Inf. UH-1 had engaged five NVA and killed two. The same **helicopter** also killed two NVA a mile away.

At 1040, Btry. D, 1-82 Arty. moved into action after a call from an aerial observer of a Forward Air Control element in Quang Ngai. He spotted nine VC herding water buffalo 8 1/2 miles west-northwest of Quang Ngai and directed artillery fire to kill five VC and two water buffalo.

Co. C, 3-1 Inf., operating outside Vernon Lake II, killed a VC five miles northwest of Quang Ngai after finding and destroying 6000 pounds of rice nearby earlier.

Americal and Marine units closed their cordon of the Batangan Peninsula with has been probed by as many as 8800 men since Jan. 13 when Operation Russell Beach opened. Units on the central and southern coasts reached the sea yesterday to join two Marine companies which hit the northern coast five days ago.

Work began on a fire base in the coastal area, while many units maintained the rear area sweep which continues to produce scattered encounters with VC, tunnels, caves, mines, and booby traps.

Co. C, 4-3 Inf., working far to the rear 9 1/2 miles northeast of Quang Ngai, recorded yesterday's only kill. The "Old Guard" troops watched a VC who in turn was watching cavalry movements in the area. When the VC discovered he had been spotted, he ran into a tunnel where he was killed after refusing to reappear.

Marine Co. M, 3-26 Regt. captured eight VC suspects easily--all eight walked into the company command post with hands raised high over their heads.

The 24-day cordon sweep produced 11,585 refugees processed and 201 VC killed by Americal, Marine, and ARVN troops. In addition, 256 members of the VC infra-structure were captured. Also detained were 152 VC suspects, 102 prisoners of war, and 32 Hoi Chanhs.

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For the fifth day in the past week, no Americal Division soldiers were killed. Sixteen were wounded and evacuated for medical treatment, according to an initial report. There were no Marine casualties.

Volume 2 No. 42 Americal Daily New Sheet TUESDAY February 11, 1969

MIRACLE WEATHER REPORT

Tomorrow's forecast calls for fair to partly cloudy skies. Winds will be southerly at 5-15 knots. High temperature will be about 86' with a low of about 66. The moon will rise at 0251 hours and will set at 1411 hours.

AMERICAL DIVISION NEWS

CHU LAI (AMERICAL IO)— F Trp., 17th Cav. and Co. B, 2-1 Inf. working separately, yesterday killed two NVA and three VC without suffering a casualty in Operation Fayette Canyon.

A good ratio ? as good as can be, and it's indicative of what's been happening in the 196th Inf. Bde. operation designed to root out enemy troops in a mountainous jungle area some 25 miles west and northwest of Tam Ky.

Throughout southern I Corps yesterday, Americal Division forces reported killing seven NVA and 30 VC, detaining 70 VC suspects and capturing 12 weapons, one crew served.

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Air Force CPT Jack Stitzel (Phoenix, Ariz.), a Forward Air Control pilot for the 11th Inf. Bde., gave the 11th's totals a boost by finding seven VC killed in air strikes 9 1/2 and 11 1/2 miles north-northwest of Duc Pho.

CPT Stitzel, who also discovered a VC body Sunday, located five VC at 0835 hours and two more at 0926 yesterday as the 11th killed four NVA and 14 VC, detained 23 VC suspects, and captured six weapons.

Units of the 4-21 Inf., poking through another air strike area, killed two NVA and three VC and captured a rifle-per-man 15, 16, and 17 1/2 miles west-northwest of Quang Ngai.

In two incidents, Co. A killed two NVA and a VC and captured an AK-47 and two SKS rifles. In two more encounters, Co. C also killed two NVA and a VC and took two AK-47s and a K-44. Co A found two motor bikes nearby and destroyed 500 pounds of salt. **(cont'd on page 2)**

In Operation Vernon Lake II, Co. D, 3-1 Inf. engaged an unknown-size enemy force and killed two VC 12 miles west-southwest of Quang Ngai. On the outskirts of the Duc Pho compound, Co. C, 3-1 Inf. killed a VC.

Other VC kills went to Co. D, 4-31 Inf. which killed one and detained 13 VC suspects 8 1/2 miles west-northwest of Quang Ngai, and to a **"Shark" gunship of the 174th Aslt. Hel. Co. 10 1/2 miles north-northwest of Duc Pho.**

****

No Americal Division soldiers were killed, and two were wounded and evacuated for medical treatment, according to an initial report.

Vol. 3 No. 43 WEDNESDAY February 12, 1969
Americal Daily Newsheet

MIRACLE WEATHER REPORT THURSDAY Tomorrow's forecast calls for fair to partly cloudy skies. Winds will be south-southeasterly at 3-10 knots, gusting to 18 knots in the afternoon. High temperature will be about 86° with a low of about 67°. Moon will rise at 0357 and set at 1516.

AMERICAL DIVISION NEWS

CHU LAI (Americal IO)---Gunships, working with an independent of ground troops, counted for more than two-thirds of enemy kills in southern I Corps yesterday.

Americal Division forces reported killing three NVA and 23 VC, detaining 32 VC suspects, and capturing seven individual weapons in light and scattered action.

Most active among the gunships were "Blue Ghosts" of F Trp., 8th Cav., "Aero Scout" Co. B of the 123d. Avn Bn., and "Sharks" of the **174th Aslt. Hel. Co.** Two units were active in more than one operational area.

**** "Blue Ghosts" killed six of eight VC recorded in the 196th Inf. Bde. area, and all six kills came in Operation Fayette Canyon. One weapon was captured.

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Gunships of the "Aero Scout" company and a UH-1 working with the **1-52nd Inf**. killed all six VC in the 198th Inf. Bde. area, while a ground unit found three weapons.

"Aero Scouts" killed four VC at 1400 13 miles southwest of Tam Ky and a fifth VC a half-hour later after receiving small arms fire from a hut 14-1/2 miles southwest of Tam Ky. The UH-1 killed a VC seven miles southwest of Tam Ky.

Also in the Oregon area, Co. C, **1-52nd Inf.** took charge of a Vietnamese male who walked into the company base camp with his mother and said he wanted to Chieu Hoi.

At 1330 in the Batangan Peninsula area 11-1/2 miles northwest of Quang Ngai City, Co B, 5-46 Inf. detained 19 VC suspects and found two M-2 carbines and a K-44 rifle in a hole nearby.

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An "Aero Scout" and a **"Shark"** killed three VC, and Co. D, 3-1 Inf. added an NVA and a weapon in light action in the 11th Inf. Bde. area.

At 0920, the "Aero Scout", piloted by CW2 Allan Danforth, killed one VC 3-1/2 miles north of Duc Pho and, at 1145, an "Aero Scout" found an destroyed 14 sampans 12 miles west of Quang Ngai.

The **"Shark"**, piloted by WO1 Warren Smith (St. Louis, Mo.) and 1Lt. Steve Kennedy (Dallas, Tex.), killed two VC 9-1/2 miles north-northwest of Duc Pho.

In Operation Vernon Lake II, Co. D killed an NVA and took his M-1 carbine 12-1/2 miles west-southwest of Quang Ngai.

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One Americal Division soldier was killed, and 15 were wounded and evacuated for medical treatment, according to an initial report.

Vol. 3 No. 46 SATURDAY February 15, 1969

MIRACLE WEATHER REPORT

SUNDAY

Tomorrow's forecast calls for fair skies. Winds will be southeasterly at 8-15 knots. High temperature will be about 86° with a low of about 68°. Moon rise will be at 0646 and will set at 1831.

AMERICAL DIVISION NEWS

CHU LAI (AMERICAL IO)--Cos. A and B, 4-3 Inf. yesterday discovered one good reason why they've been retained to operate in the 198th Inf. Bde. area since the combat phase of Operation Russell Beach ended earth this week.

Normally part of the 11th Inf. Bde., the two "Old Guard" units encountered a large VC force in a three-mile area northeast of Quang Ngai City and killed 26 while detaining 31 VC suspects.

Including those totals, Americal Division forces reported killing one NVA and 44 VC, detaining 42 VC suspects, and capturing three individual weapons as action increased throughout southern I Corps.

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**** Light action concentrated in the Duc Pho area was again the story for 11th Inf. Bde. units which killed an NVA and a VC, detained five VC suspects, captured a weapon, and destroyed 42 huts.

Co. D, 4-21 Inf., working 10-1/2 miles south-southwest of Duc Pho, engaged two NVA, killed one, and captured a K-50 rifle. **A "Shark" gunship of the 174th Aslt. Hel. Co.,** piloted by WO1 Robert Thomas (Birmingham, Ala.), killed the VC and destroyed 15 huts 6-1/2 miles northwest of Duc Pho.

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Eight Americal Division soldiers were wounded and evacuated for medical treatment, according to an initial report.

Vol.3 No. 47 SUNDAY February 16, 1969 Americal Daily News sheet
MIRACLE WEATHER REPORT MONDAY Tomorrow's forecast calls for fair to partly cloudy skies. Winds will be east-southerly at 5-15 knots. High temperature will be about 85° with a low of about 68°. Moon rise will be at 0733 and will set at 1930.

AMERICAL DIVISION NEWS

CHU LAI (AMERICAL IO)--"Shark" and "Aero Scout" gunship pilots provided strong air support, and the 6-11 Arty. joined elements of three battalions on the ground to help the 11th Inf. Bde. total 18 VC kills in 10 scattered incidents yesterday.

Throughout southern I Corps, Americal Division forces reported killing 33 VC, detaining nine VC suspects, and capturing one individual weapon.

**** **"Sharks" of the 174th Aslt. Hel. Co.** and Co. C, 4-21 Inf. combined to kill 10 VC in four incidents 11 miles east and east-southeast of Quang Ngai between 1530 and 1630 hours.

At 1530, a **"Shark"**, piloted by **WO1 Robert Thomas** (Birmingham, Ala.), killed a VC and, 20 minutes later, WO1 William Cooper (Alexandria, Va.) maneuvered his "Shark" to kill three VC.

At 1610, Co. C killed a VC, and 20 minutes later, killed five VC. The last three incidents occurred in the same place.

Firing from his "Aero Scout" gunship, CW2 Allan Danforth (Birmingham, Ala.), killed one VC, destroyed two huts and one bunker, and detained four VC suspects in the area.

In Operation Vernon Lake II, Cos. B and C, 3-1 Inf. each killed a VC 15-15-1/2 miles southwest of Quang Ngai.

Cos. B and C, 1-20 Inf. also killed a VC apiece six miles east and 4-1/2 miles west-northwest, respectively, of Duc Pho. Co. B, 4-21 Inf. adjusted fire from Btry. A, 6-11 Arty. to kill one of two VC spotted 9-1/2 miles west-southwest of Duc Pho.

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The South Vietnamese Government yesterday announced a 24-hour allied standdown starting at 1800 hours today. Enemy forces had previously declared a seven-day truce beginning yesterday in observance of the TET holidays.

**** One Americal Division soldier was killed, and seven were wounded and evacuated for medial treatment, according to an initial report.

In the past week, 12 VC and 189 NVA were killed in the Americal area. Fewer than 10 Americal Division soldiers were killed.

Vol 3 No. 49 TUESDAY February 18, 1969 Americal Newsheet
MIRACLE WEATHER REPORT WEDNESDAY Tomorrow's forecast calls for fair to partly cloudy skies. Winds will be from the southeast at 5-15 knots. High temperature will be about 87 with a low of about 70. Moon rise will be at 0852 hours and will set at 2118 hours.

AMERICAL DIVISION NEWS

CHU LAI (AMERICAL IO)-- Combat action dropped to its lowest level since last fall as Americal Division forces engaged enemy troops only four times yesterday while allied units operated under a 24-hour standdown throughout South Vietnam.

The truce, which began at 1800 hours Sunday, put Americal troops on the defensive yesterday, and only three of six kills in southern I Corps were recorded during the truce period. In one case, two VC initiated contact; in the other, a VC body was found.

In addition to killing six VC, Americal units detained a VC suspect, captured an M-1 carbine, found and destroyed 900 pounds of rice, and discovered evidence of enemy telephone tapping.
**** Four VC were killed in the 11th Inf. Bde. area, including three in Operation Vernon Lake II, and the carbine taken.

At 1130, two VC shot at Co. D, 3-1 Inf., and were killed in the return of small arms fire 12-1/2 miles southwest of Quang Ngai. The carbine was captured along with clothing, documents, a U.S. pistol belt, and canteen. At 1825, Co. D detained a VC suspect digging a grave 11 miles southwest of Quang Ngai.

Co. B, 3-1 Inf., also operating in Vernon Lake II at 1130, found a VC killed by small arms fire within the previous 24 hours 13 miles southwest of Quang Ngai.

At 1855, **Co. D, 1-20 Inf.** directed fire from Btry. C, 1-82 Arty. to kill one VC 15 miles south of Quang Ngai.

A "Shark" gunship of the 174th Aslt. Hel. Co. destroyed 15 structures 4 miles northwest of Duc Pho.
**** Twelve minutes after the truce expired, Co. C, 1-46 Inf. engaged four VC and killed two 20 miles northwest of Tam Ky in the 196th Inf. Bde. area.
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Two Americal Division soldiers were wounded and evacuated for medical treatment, according to an initial report.

Vol. 3 No. 50 WEDNESDAY February 19, 1969 Americal Daily Newsheet

MIRACLE WEATHER REPORT THURSDAY Tomorrow's forecast calls for fair and hazy skies. Winds will be from the southeast at 5-15 knots in the afternoon. High temperature will be about 87° with a low of about 72°. Moon rise will be at 0920 hours and will set at 2209 hours.

AMERICAL DIVISION NEWS

CHU LAI (AMERICAL IO)--Americal Division forces engaged and killed enemy troops in 13 incidents yesterday in light action following the 24-hour allied standdown which has slowed action to a minimum throughout southern I Corps Monday.

Twenty VC were killed and four VC bodies found in the 13 clashes, and tow individual weapons were captured in separate actions. Americal units also detained 11 VC suspects and found and destroyed 7650 pounds of and grain.

**** One unit of the 11th Inf. Bde. and supporting gunships killed six VC, found four VC bodies, detained a VC suspect, and found a small mortar cache.

In Operation Vernon Lake II, a UH-1 helicopter, working with the 3-1 Inf., directed 6-11 Arty. fire to kill one VC and later found the bodies of four VC killed by artillery more than a day ago. Both incidents occurred 17 miles south-west of Quang Ngai.

Also in Vernon Lake II, Co. D, 3-1 Inf. found and evacuated 48 82mm mortar rounds 14 miles southwest of Quang Ngai.

The recon unit of the 4-21 Inf. found in graves the badly-burned bodies of four VC killed in air strikes within the previous 24 hours 13-1/2 miles north-northwest of Duc Pho.

At 0835 hours, **a "Shark" gunship of the 174th Aslt. Hel. Co.,** piloted by **WO1 Robert E. Thomas** (Birmingham, Ala.), killed a VC a half-mile from the scene of the recon discovery.

**** Co. C, 3-21 Inf., working 13 miles northwest of Tam Ky, killed five VC in two incidents, an three other elements of the 196th Inf. Bde. added two more VC killed and a weapon taken.

****

Cos. A and B, 4-3 Inf. killed six VC and detained 10 VC suspects, while other units working in the 198th Inf. Bde. area captured a weapon and destroyed a tunnel and 7650 pounds of rice and grain.

Co. B, 4-3 Inf. killed five VC in three encounters five and 9-1/2 miles northeast of Quang Ngai, and Co. A killed one VC six miles northeast of Quang Ngai. In four incidents, Co. A rounded up 10 VC suspects and 26 women between ages 50-70 who had no ID cards and apparently had been forced to accompany the VC suspects.

**** Six Americal Division soldiers were killed, and 23 were wounded and evacuated for medical treatment, according to an initial report.

Vol. 3 No. 54 SUNDAY February 23, 1969 Americal Daily Newsheet

AMERICAL DIVISION NEWS

CHU LAI (AMERICAL IO)----Striking with small arms fire, recoilless rifle, mortar, and rocket fire, enemy forces directed 37 attacks against 30 allied positions in southern I Corps between 0117 and 0700 hours this morning.

NVA and VC elements, sometimes working together, made ground probes at six sites, three of which were manned by Regular Force units and one of which is an ARVN OP.

The Chu Lai Defense Command area was hit at 0152, 0230, and 0700 hours by 82mm mortar and 122mm rocket rounds. The first barrage included 18-20 82mm mortars, the second three 122mm rockets, and the third brought at least 12 rocket rounds approximately 40 minutes after daybreak.

Other Americal Division positions attacked by the enemy included the following LZs: Bronco (four attacks), Bayonet (two), Gator, Cork, Dottie, Liz, Buff, Hawk Hill, Baldy, Hill 69, Professional, and Hill 38. Among other sites hit were Binh Son, Tam Ky, Song Tinh, and the An Tan bridge area.

First reports showed at least 19 enemy soldiers killed, and at least 16 individual weapons captured. Fifteen kills and all the weapons were recorded by A Trp., 1st Sqdn., 1st Cav. which subdued a large enemy force slightly west of Tam Ky at 0740.

Fewer than 10 Americal Division soldiers were killed, and 51 were wounded and evacuated for medical treatment, according to initial reports. A preliminary assessment of Americal positions under attack indicated that damage was light.

**** Action before 2400 hours in southern I Corps was moderate and divided almost evenly throughout the Americal's three brigade area. Twenty-six contacts with enemy units were made.

Americal forces reported killing six NVA and 29 VC, detained 26 VC suspects, capturing seven individual weapons, and evacuating 4350 pounds of rice.

**** Co. A, 3-1 Inf. added seven VC kills to the impressive total in Operation Vernon Lake II as 11th Inf. Bde. units killed 10 VC, detained three VC suspects, and captured one weapon.

Co. A, operating 17-18 miles southwest of Quang Ngai, engaged VC elements four times between 1400 and 17445 and killed seven. Since Vernon Lake II began Nov. 2, 118 NVA and 226 VC have been killed, and 34 NVA and 38 VC bodies found. Of 145 weapons captured, five were crew-served.

Cos. B and C, 1-20 Inf. each killed a VC 5-1/2 miles west-northwest of Quang Ngai and seven miles southeast of Duc Pho, respectively. **A "Shark" gunship of the 174th Aslt. Hel. Co.,** working with Co. C, killed a VC.

The **1-20 recon** unit found an AK-47 rifle 6-1/2 miles northwest of Duc Pho.

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Prior to 2400, one Americal Division soldier was killed, and 12 were wounded and evacuated for medical treatment, according to an initial report.

Vol. 3 No. 55 MONDAY February 24, 1969 Americal Newsheet

AMERICAL DIVISION NEWS

CHU LAI (AMERICAL IO)--Led by three troops of the 1st Sqdn., 1st Cav. and gunships of the **174 Aslt. Hel. Co.** and F. Trp., 8th Cav., Americal Division forces rebounded sharply from seven hours of early-morning enemy attacks against more than 40 positions in southern I Corps yesterday.

Although the number of contacts with enemy troops was average (24), action was extremely heavy as Americal units killed 10 NVA and 159 VC, found five VC bodies, and captured 32 weapons, four crew served.

The cavalry and gunships accounted for 134 enemy dead in three major incidents in the Tam Ky and Duc Pho areas.

Between 0117 and approximately 0800 hours, NVA and VC elements launched ground, small arms, recoilless rifle, mortar and rocket attacks on 11 landing zones, four observation posts, three night defensive positions, three Special Forces camps, seven district headquarters areas, and one provincial capital.

The Chu Lai Defense Command area received 66 122mm and 140mm rockets and 18-20 82mm mortars yesterday morning. Twenty-six rockets landed in the sea, and damage throughout the five-sector CLDC area was described as light.

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No Americal soldiers were killed and one was wounded and evacuated for medical treatment.

**** **Four "Shark" gunships of the 174th Aslt. Hel. Co.** killed 50 VC in two significant incidents near Duc Pho. Other 11th Bde. units killed 11 VC.

"Shark" action started in early-morning when **WO1 John Pennington** (Newark, Ohio) spotted rocket and mortar flashes from his perch atop a high hill in the middle of the 11th Bde. headquarters at LZ Bronco.

WO1 Pennington called artillery on the flash points, but the "Sharks" remained atop and at the foot of the hill where they waited to scramble as a reactionary force. Their work day began in earnest at 0500 when a large VC force threatened the Duc Pho airstrip.

Scrambling quickly west, four **"Sharks"** caught the VC in the open and killed 23 before pulling off to refuel and rearm. In addition to WO1 Pennington, the other pilots were **WO1 Ellsworth Beebe (Tiffin, Ohio), WO1 William Cooper (Huddleston, Va.), and WO1 Robert Thomas (Birmingham, Ala.).**

At approximately 0900 hours, rocket launches were spotted from LZ Liz. six miles northwest of Duc Pho. Artillery fire in the area was impossible because of an Americal patrol nearby.

On arrival, the **"Sharks"** caught a large VC group at the launch site before it could reach cover of a well-fortified bunker nearby. Despite ground fire, the "Sharks" killed 27 VC and destroyed 20 huts in the area to silence the intruders.

Elsewhere in the 11th area, four units of the 3-1 Inf. killed nine VC in four incidents in Operation Vernon Lake II. Two were killed in an unsuccessful ground attack at an LZ. The two remaining VC kills went to **Co. B, 1-20 Inf.** which put down a probe at another LZ.

**** All but one of seventeen VC killed in the 198th Inf. Bde. area were caught trying to breach perimeters in four incidents at three LZs. Of nine individual and four crew-served weapons captured, eight were taken in the abortive ground attacks.

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Six Americal Division soldiers were killed, and 57 were wounded and evacuated for medical treatment, according to an initial report.

Vol. 3. No. 62 Monday March 3, 1969 Americal Daily Newsheet

AMERICAL DIVISION NEWS

CHU LAI (AMERICAL IO)--Americal Division forces met the enemy in 17 contacts, including five in each brigade area, as the enemy offensive ground through its eighth day in southern I Corps.

Americal units reported killing two NVA and 19 VC, finding one VC body, and capturing one individual weapon in light action.

****

Three elements of the 3-1 Inf. accounted for seven of nine killed and the lone weapon captured in the 11th Inf. Bde. area.

A UH-1 helicopter, working with the 3-1 Inf., found the bodies of three VC killed by 4.2 mortar fire from Co. E, 3-1 Inf. 12-1/2 miles southwest of Quang Ngai and, at 0145 hours, the 3-1 recon unit killed two VC outside its perimeter 14 miles southwest of Quang Ngai.

In a delayed report of action at 2345 Saturday, Co. C, 3-1 Inf. engaged three VC and killed two a mile northwest of Duc Pho.

Co. B, 4-21 Inf., working nine miles south-southwest of Quang Ngai, killed an NVA and captured his AK-47 rifle, while the 4-21 recon unit killed two VC 2-1/2 miles nearer Quang Ngai.

Eight miles south of Duc Pho, **Co. A, 1-20 Inf.** detained three VC suspects with wounds apparently inflicted by artillery fire.

A gunship of the **174th Aslt. Hel. Co.** crashed and was destroyed 14-1/2 miles northwest of Duc Pho. No ground fire had been received prior to the crash. All four crew members were wounded and evacuated for medical treatment.

****

Three Americal Division soldiers were killed and 19 were wounded and evacuated for medical treatment, according to an initial report.

Vol. 3 No. 63 Tuesday March 4, 1969 Americal Daily Newsheet

AMERICAL DIVISION NEWS

CHU LAI (AMERICAL IO)-Sporadic enemy attacks against LZ's and night defensive positions continued yesterday as Americal Division units met the enemy 17 times on the ninth day of his offensive in southern I Corps.

Americal forces reported killing nine NVA and 26 VC, and capturing six weapons, one crew-served.

****

Five NVA and 11 VC were killed in the 11th Inf. Bde. area where two VC suspects were detained and the crew-served weapon taken.

At 1205 hours, a patrol of **Co. B, 1-20 Inf.** ran into heavy contact with a well-camouflaged NVA force in a wooded area three miles northwest of Duc Pho. In quick order, the rest of Co. B moved into the area.

Then came E Trp., 1st Cav.; Co. B, 3-1 Inf.; **"Shark"** gunships of the **174th Aslt. Hel. Co.;** a pounding by batteries of the 6-11 and 1-82 Arty.; and six air strikes directed by 11th Bde. Forward Air Control pilots.

When contact was finally broken at 1840, Co. B, 1-20 Inf. had killed two NVA, one as he tried to drag away his companion's body, and captured a loaded RPG launcher. Further sweeps at daybreak may locate more enemy bodies.

At 1000 in the same area, **Co. B, 1-20 Inf.** had found four VC killed by a 6-11 Arty. barrage during the night and, a half-mile away, Co. C, 3-1 Inf. killed two VC at 0905.

Co. C, 1-20 Inf. moved into the contested area late in the day and found fresh trails and foxholes, an NVA pack, Chicom grenades, 30 AK-47, two RPG rounds, and three enemy suspects wounded by artillery fire.

The only other contact in the 11th Bde. area came at 1520 when Co. D, 3-1 Inf. killed a party of five rice-carrying VC 15 miles southwest of Quang Ngai.

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Eight Americal Division soldiers were killed, and 24 were wounded and evacuated for medical treatment, according to an initial report.

Vol. 3, No. 65 Thursday March 6, 1969 Americal Daily Newsheet

AMERICAL DIVISION NEWS

CHU LAI (AMERICAL IO)- Co. A, 1-46 Inf. raised its one week total of enemy killed to 35 to highlight increased action throughout southern I Corps yesterday.

Americal Division forces made 22 contacts with the enemy and reported killing one NVA and 46 VC, detaining 11 enemy suspects, and capturing one crew-served weapon.

****

Seventeen VC were killed in the 11th Bde. area where six of seven contacts occurred between 1530 and 1800 hours.

At 1040, Co. D, 4-21 Inf. found the body of a VC killed by 6-11 Arty. fire within the previous 24 hours eight miles southwest of Quang Ngai. The body was in a fresh grave.

Operating 11 miles north-northwest of Duc Pho, Co. A, 3-1 Inf. engaged 101-15 VC at 1530 and killed four. Thirty minutes later, the remaining VC were engaged again, and Co. A killed three more. At 1800, Co. A killed two VC nearby.

At 1600, a **"Shark" gunship of the 174th Aslt. Hel. Co.** killed a VC four miles northwest of Duc Pho.

Twenty minutes later, a "Shark" teamed with **Co. B, 1-20 Inf.** to kill six VC in a brief firefight five miles north-northwest of Duc Pho. Co. B killed for of the VC.

****

Four Americal soldiers were killed, and four were wounded and evacuated for medical treatment, according to an initial report.

Vol. 3, No. 67 Saturday March 8, 1969 Americal Daily Newsheet

AMERICAL DIVISION NEWS

CHU LAI (AMERICAL IO)--- Elements of the **1-52nd Inf.**, the 3-21 Inf. and the 1st Sqdn., 1st Cav. jointed the 6th ARVN Regt. in a day-long engagement with an unknown size enemy force in which nine NVA and one VC were killed and seven individual weapons captured 12 miles southwest of Tam Ky yesterday.

Throughout the southern I Corps, Americal Division units made 19 contacts with the enemy and reported killing eight NVA and 30 VC and capturing eight individual weapons. F Trp., 17th Cav found 12-1/2 tons of rice in four locations northwest of Tam Ky.

****

In the 11th Inf. Bde. area, 15 VC were killed.

At 0830 hours, 3-1 Inf. SRP team spotted an unknown size VC force and called for support from Btry. C, 3-18 Arty. which killed five VC.

At 1350 hours, **"Shark" helicopters of the 174th Aslt. Hel. Co.** spotted five VC three miles northwest of Duc Pho and killed four wearing packs. Flying the gunships were WO1 John Pennington (Newark, Ohio) and WO1 John Gendreau (Bellflower, Calif.).

Co. A, 3-1 Inf. spotted and killed one VC and captured one unidentified weapon 11 miles northwest of Duc Pho.

****

Six Americal Division soldiers were killed, and 42 were wounded and evacuated for medical treatment, according to an initial report.

Vol. 3 No. 68 Sunday March 9, 1969 Americal Daily Newsheet

AMERICAL DIVISION NEWS

CHU LAI (AMERICAL IO)--Elements of the 198th and 196th Inf. Bdes and the 1st Sqdn., 1st Cav. engaged an unknown-size enemy force 12 miles southwest of Tam Ky for the second consecutive day in which nine NVA were killed and four weapons captured yesterday.

Americal Division units made 24 contacts with the enemy in southern I Corps and reported killing 19 NVA and 21 VC, while detaining six enemy suspects, and capturing 10 weapons, one crew-served.

Fighting was heavy around Duc Pho as units of the 11th Inf. Bde. killed 11 NVA and eight VC, detaining six suspects, and capturing five weapons.

Co. D, 1-20 Inf., backed by E Trp., 1st Cav., killed four NVA 1-1/2 miles northwest of Duc Pho. Co. C, 3-1 Inf. killed four NVA and B, 3-1 killed two in the same area. "Shark" helicopters of the **174th Aslt. Hel. Co.** worked overhead.

At 0800 hours, **Co. D, 1-20**, found two VC killed by air strikes being carried out of a village by a burial party two miles west of Duc Pho. Co. D later found another VC killed by air strikes near the village.

At 1630 hours **Co. D** found two NVA killed by air strikes and captured two AK-47 rifles three miles northwest of Duc Pho.

****

Ten Americal soldiers were killed and 60 were wounded and evacuated for medical treatment, according to an initial report.

In the past week, 49 NVA and 189 VC were killed in the Americal Division area. In that time, 35 Americal soldiers were killed.

Vol. 3 No. 69 Monday March 10, 1969 Americal Daily Newsheet

AMERICAL DIVISION NEWS

CHU LAI (AMERICAL IO)--Elements of the 11th Inf. Bde. for the second consecutive day had heavy engagements near Duc Pho, in which 25 NVA and four VC were killed, 10 enemy suspects detained, and two individual and four crew-served weapons were captured yesterday.

Americal Division units made 22 contacts in the southern I Corps and reported killing 32 NVA and 18 VC, capturing nine weapons, five crew-served.

****

Co. C, 4-21 Inf., 11th Bde. killed 15 NVA, captured one AK-47 rifle, two RPG rocker launchers, and one Chicom machinegun four miles west of Duc Pho. Co. C also detained nine enemy suspects carrying a dud 60mm mortar round.

3-1 Inf.'s SRP team spotted eight VC 13 miles northwest of Duc Pho and called in artillery which killed four of the enemy.

"Shark" helicopters of the **174th Aslt. Hel. Co.** killed two NVA three miles west of Duc Pho.

Co. B, 4-21 engaged with two NVA and killed them four miles west of Duc Pho. Co. B detained a woman suspect who Chieu Hoied in the same area.

E. Trp., 1st Cav. killed two NVA one mile away.

Co. B, 1-20 Inf. killed one NVA and captured a RPG rocket launcher 2-1/2 miles northwest of Duc Pho.

Co. B, 3-1 Inf. found one NVA that had been killed by air strikes one-half mile away.

****

Nine Americal soldiers were killed, and 35 were wounded and evacuated for medical treatment, according to an initial report. Three Americal soldiers were reported missing in hostile action.

Vol. 3 No. 73 Friday March 14, 1969 Americal Daily Newsheet

AMERICAL DIVISION NEWS

CHU LAI (AMERICAL IO)--Action was light in the southern I Corps area again yesterday, as Americal units reported killing 21 VC and two NVA, in 16 contacts, and capturing 20 weapons, one crew-served.

****

The 11th Inf. Bde. killed nine VC and found one body in a shallow grave.

Co. C, 3-1 Inf. killed two VC in a night ambush, 10-1/2 miles northwest of Duc Pho.

Two VC were killed by E Trp., 1st Cav. in an area eight miles southeast of Duc Pho.

"Shark" helicopter gunships of the 174th Avn. Bn. killed one VC, two miles to the northeast.

At 1125 hours, during a sweep of an area 2-1/2 miles southwest of Duc Pho, Co. A, 4-21 Inf. discovered the grave of a VC that had been killed by artillery four to five days earlier.

****

Co. A, 4-3 Inf. reported two Vietnamese children told them where a "Bouncing Betty" antipersonnel mine was buried near Quang Ngai. The Vietnamese received a reward for their actions.

****

One Americal soldier was killed and seven wounded and evacuated for medical treatment, according to an initial report.

****

Vol. 3 No. 77 Tuesday March 18, 1969
MIRACLE SAFETY REMINDER
AMERICAL DIVISION NEWS

CHU LAI (AMERICAL IO)--WO1 Thomas R. Shagen (Columbus, Ga.) turned a test flight into the real thing yesterday when he broke his flight pattern to rescue two engineers injured when their bulldozer detonated a pressure mine.

Flying for the **174th Aslt. Hel. Co., WO1 Shagen** was cruising above Highway 1 a half-mile north of Duc Pho when his crew chief, **SP5 Jim Swimson** (Houston, Tex.), spotted a cloud of smoke rising along the highway. The chopper dropped to investigate.

"From 500 feet, I couldn't tell what had happened," said **WO1 Shagen**. "I broke our pattern and flew low. Then I could see the bulldozer overturned after hitting the mine.

"I also saw two men lying in the roadway and went in to pick them up."

Landing on the highway, the chopper loaded the men and whisked them to a nearby LZ for medical treatment. The heavy bulldozer was a total loss, but its bulk prevented serious injury to the two engineers.

****

Combat action in southern I Corps was light as Americal Division forces reported killing three NVA and 14 VC, detaining five enemy suspects and a Hoi Chanh, and capturing three individual weapons.

****

At 0845 hours Saturday, Co. A, 4-3 Inf. found and evacuated an unidentified submachinegun and an M-16 rifle near Quang Ngai and, at 1030, Co. C, 1-6 Inf. found a VC killed by small arms fire within the previous 24 hours.

In the 11th Inf. Bde. area, **Co. D, 1-20 Inf.** found a VC killed by artillery eight miles west of Duc Pho. In an incident reported two days late, Co. A, 3-1 Inf. killed a VC at 1115 Saturday.

On a sweep a mile north of Duc Pho yesterday, Co. A chased and caught six VC suspects, including one wounded in the contact. The wounded man had no ID card.

****

One Americal soldier was killed, and six were wounded and evacuated for medical treatment, according to an initial report.

****

Vol. 3 No. 83 Monday March 24, 1969 Americal Daily Newsheet

AMERICAL DIVISION NEWS

CHU LAI (AMERICAL IO)--Action was moderate in southern I Corps yesterday with Americal Division units reporting 31 NVA and 17 VC killed, nine suspects detained, 15 enemy bunkers destroyed, three NVA bodies found, and six weapons captured.

****

The 11th Inf. Bde. had the most action Sunday, after two days without enemy contact, when it reported 18 NVA and six VC killed, three NVA bodies discovered, six suspects detained, eight bunkers destroyed in its area of operation.

A Ranger Patrol of Co. G, 75 Inf. killed a VC while on a sweep through the jungle six miles southwest of Duc Pho. The patrol leader, SGT Ronald Olsen (Watertown, S.D.) said, When we were inserted into the area we knew there had been enemy activity there. We found a fresh garden and well used trails. We came into a 16 hootch complex, with water and food in some of the hootches. Two more complexes were found along the trail as well as two logs that were 15 feet long and had been hollowed out. They had been used for rocket launchers and were aimed toward LZ Bronco.

"As we moved along the trail," SGT Olsen continued, "we ran into a VC and killed him, soon afterwards, we engaged three more VC and found three blood trails leading away from the trail.

"When we started receiving heavy small arms fire we called for a helicopter, and were extracted at 1500 hours.

An air strike was called into the area which resulted in seven secondary explosions.

Three NVA bodies, killed within the last 48 hours, wee found by Co. D, 3-1 Inf. They had been killed by small arms fire near the Tra Cau River, three miles north of Duc Pho. Eight bunkers, one booby-trapped, were destroyed in the same location. Co. D, 3-1 Inf. killed another NVA and found one VC a half-mile away from the bunker.

Gunships of the **174th Aslt. Hel. Co.** killed four VC three of whom were killed 2-1/2 miles northwest of Duc Pho. One was killed 22 miles northwest of Duc Pho.

Co. A, 4-21 Inf. killed two NVA in a rice paddy and captured an M-79 grenade launcher eight miles west of Quang Ngai.

Co. C, 1-20 Inf. detained five enemy suspects without proper I.D. cards 4-1/2 miles south of Duc Pho. Co. B, 4-21 Inf. also detained one suspect seven miles west of Quang Ngai.

****

Three Americal soldiers were killed, and 24 were wounded and evacuated for medical treatment, according to an initial report.

Vol. 3 No. 84 Tuesday March 25, 1969 Americal Daily Newsheet

AMERICAL DIVISION NEWS

CHU LAI (AMERICAL IO)--Action was moderate throughout the southern I Corps yesterday, with Americal Division units reporting 21 NVA and 21 VC killed, 17 enemy bunkers destroyed, and nine suspects detained.

****

Heaviest action was in the 11th Inf. Bde. area with 19 NVA and three VC killed and five suspects detained.

At 1525 hours, Co. A, 4-21 Inf. was on a search and clear mission in hills seven miles west of Quang Ngai, when it came under intense small arms, automatic weapons, and 82mm mortar fire from an unknown size NVA force in bunkers. **Gunships from the 174th Aslt. Hel. Co.** were called in to help pin down the enemy.

Twenty minutes after contact, a Recon unit of 4-21 Inf. and armored personnel carriers of E Trp., 1st Cav. were called in to assist Co. A.

When contact was broken by the enemy at 1815 hours, five NVA had been killed.

In a delayed report C Btry., 3-18 Arty. killed 14 NVA Saturday, 8-1/2 miles south of Quang Ngai City.

Co.'s A, C, and D, 3-1 Inf. each killed a VC in scattered actions. Co. C, 3-1 Inf. engaged five VC killing one, 1-1/2 miles west-northwest of Duc Pho, and Co. A, 3-1 Inf. killed another in a rice paddy 1-1/2 miles northeast of Duc Pho. Co. D, 3-1 Inf. killed one VC and detained four enemy suspects nine miles southeast of Quang Ngai. Co. D, 3-1 Inf. earlier detained an enemy suspect one mile west.

****

DID YOU TAKE YOUR ORANGE PILL YESTERDAY

****

Three Americal soldiers were killed, and 27 were wounded and evacuated for medical treatment, according to an initial report.

Vol. 3 No. 85 Wednesday March 26, 1969 Americal Daily Newsheet

AMERICAL DIVISION NEWS

CHU LAI (AMERICAL IO)--Action was light most of the day in the southern I Corps yesterday.

Americal Division units reported 16 VC killed, four NVA bodies discovered, five suspects detained, and ten weapons, two crew-served, captured.

In Operation Russell Beach Tuesday, the nearly 12,000 refugees who were evacuated during the early phases of the operation returned to the Batangan Peninsula.

The move began on March 14 when the first refugees departed the CHIC (Combined Holding and Interrogation Center) outside of Quang Ngai, in sampans, trucks and helicopters.

The village and hamlet sites on the peninsula were secured by two Regional Force companies as well as Americal Division soldiers from the 198th Inf. Bde.'s 5-46 Inf.

The people will be living in temporary lean-tos on new village sites prepared by Americal's 26th Engr. Bn. until they can build their new homes with the division's help.

The rebuilding in the vicinities of the old villages is part of the final phase of the operation.

****

Eight VC were killed and two weapons captured in the 11th Inf. Bde. area.

"Shark" gunships of the 174 Aslt. He. Co. killed three VC in a rice paddy five miles northwest of Duc Pho. Co. A, 3-1 Inf. detained two enemy suspects without I.D. cards, among some hootches a mile away.

Co. D, 3-1 Inf. killed two VC and captured an M-14 rifle 1-1/2 miles southeast of Duc Pho. Co. D, 3-1 Inf. later found another VC killed by small arms fire in a tunnel along with documents and a French pistol.

E Trp., 1st Cav. engaged and killed two VC by Lake Ankhe, 9-1/2 miles southeast of Duc Pho.

The 1st Sqdn., 1st Cav. , reported three VC killed in this area of operation.

Two Americal soldiers were killed, and 12 were wounded and evacuated for medical treatment, according to an initial report.

Vol. 3 No. 87 Friday March 28, 1969
MIRACLE SAFETY REMINDER
AMERICAL DIVISION NEWS

CHU LAI (AMERICAL IO)--Action was light in the southern I Corps yesterday. Americal Division units reported seven NVA and 26 VC killed, and seven weapons captured.

****

The 11th Inf. Bde. reported three VC were killed and one weapon captured in its area of operation.

A **"Shark" gunship of the 174th Aslt. Hel. Co.**, piloted by **1LT James H. Towle** (Palo Alto, Calif.), engaged an unknown size enemy force of VC killing two among hootches near the coast 10 miles southeast of Duc Pho.

Another VC was killed by Co. C, 3-1 Inf. in a rice paddy 7-1/2 miles southeast of Quang Ngai.

Co. A, 3-1 Inf. found one Chicom carbine in a wooded area by the Tra Cau River 2-1/2 miles northeast of Duc Pho.

****

Five Americal soldiers were wounded and evacuated for medical treatment, according to an initial report.

Vol. 3 No. 88 Saturday March 29, 1969 Americal Daily Newsheet
AMERICAL DIVISION NEWS

CHU LAI (AMERICAL IO)--Action was light in the southern I Corps yesterday, with Americal Division units reporting 28 VC and no NVA killed, eight suspects detained, 10 bunkers and 20 fighting positions destroyed, and one weapon captured.

Co. B, 1-20 Inf. reported 15 VC killed, seven suspects detained, and one weapon captured.

Co. B, 1-20 Inf. was on a combat assault mission when it spotted 13 VC moving along a trail and called in "Shark" **gunships of the 174th Aslt. Hel. Co.** which killed the VC.

Co. A, 1-20 Inf. on a sweep along the coast 10-1/2 miles southeast of Duc Pho, engaged three VC, killing two, and captured a .45 caliber pistol. The company also detained three enemy suspects, two males and a female without I.D. cards, in the same location.

Two more suspects were detained by the Co. A, 4-21 Inf. in a rice paddy eight miles west of Quang Ngai.

A VC suspect was detained five miles southeast of Duc Pho, by **Co. B, 1-20 Inf.** with fragmentation wounds on his head and neck. Another suspect was detained by Co. A, 3-1 Inf. three miles north of Duc Pho on Highway 1.

****

For the past week, from March 21 activity was mostly light in the southern I Corps, with Americal Division units accounting for 72 NVA and 135 VC killed, 31 weapons, two crew-served, captured, and over 40 enemy suspect detained.

In Operation Russell Beach, the nearly 12,000 refugees who were evacuated during the early phases of the operation returned to the Batangan Peninsula. The people will be living in temporary lean-tos on new village sites prepared by the Americal's 26th Engr. Bn. until they can build their new home with the division's help.

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One Americal soldier was killed, and five were wounded and evacuated for medical treatment, according to an initial report.

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IT'S SALT TABLET WEATHER AGAIN

Vol. 3 No. 89 Sunday March 30, 1969 Americal Daily Newsheet

AMERICAL DIVISION NEWS

CHU LAI (AMERICAL IO)--Action was moderate in the Americal Division area Saturday as units killed 11 NVA and 23 VC, detained 12 enemy suspects, and captured six weapons.

The 11th Inf. Bde. posted the largest number of kills as two companies of the 3-1 Inf. clashed with a combination NVA/VC force in an all-day battle killing six NVA.

In the north, a 196th Bde. company from the 4-31 Inf. uncovered a large cache of AK-47 ammunition.

****

11th Inf. Bde. units accounted for 10 NVA and one VC killed, 12 suspects detained, and two weapons captured.

The day of combat for Co. C, 3-1 Inf. began with the assault by helicopter into a sandy region on the South China Sea coast, six miles north of LZ Bronco at 1110 hours.

Shortly after the beginning a search of the area, the company came in contact with an unknown size force of VC and NVA. Six NVA regulars were killed and one AK-47 was captured.

The contact continued into the afternoon when Co. A, 3-1 Inf. was combat assaulted to the south of Co. C to establish a blocking force. Contact was broken by the enemy at 1400 hours, but occasional sniping lasted until late in the night.

Co. C, 3-1 Inf. also detained eight enemy suspects in the same area.

At 0851 hours, Co. D, 3-1 inf. received small arms and M-79 fire. Fire was returned with one NVA killed and his AK-47 rifle captured near a stream 1-1/2 miles west of Duc Pho. Later the company was working with E Trp., 1st Cav. in the same area when they engaged and killed three NVA.

One VC was killed along the beach seven miles southeast of Duc Pho, by a **"Shark" gunship of the 174th Aslt. Hel. Co.**

Co. D, 1-20 Inf. detained two enemy suspects and captured their motor bikes along with a damaged one, as well as three disassembled bicycles, six miles northeast of Duc Pho.

Two more suspects without I.D. cards were detained by **Co. B, 1-20 Inf.** seven miles southeast of Duc Pho.

****

Of the 11 VC killed in the 198th Inf. Bde. area, nine were killed by artillery.

D Btry., 1-14 Arty. engaged 40 VC killing seven in hills seven miles west-northwest of Quang Ngai.

A half-mile west and two hours earlier, Co. B, 4-3 Inf. spotted two VC crossing a river and called in artillery which killed the two. The company later found an M-72 LAW in underbrush by a trail five miles west-northwest of Quang Ngai, and blew it in place.

Co. C, 4-3 inf. engaged four VC and killed two, seven miles west-northwest of Quang Ngai.

****

Five Americal soldiers were killed, and 31 wounded and evacuated for medical treatment, according to an initial report. Four Americal soldiers were also reported missing in action.

Vol. 3 No. 99 Wednesday April 9, 1969 Americal Daily Newsheet
MIRACLE SAFETY REMINDER
70% of all hospital admissions to US Military Hospitals in Vietnam are due to DISEASE NOT WOUNDS--USE YOUR SMARTS.
GOOD LUCK
****

AMERICAL DIVISION NEWS

CHU LAI (AMERICAL IO)--Americal Division units reported five NVA and six VC were killed, two VC bodies found, and six weapons captured in light action in southern I Corps yesterday.
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IRON MOUNTAIN--One NVA and two VC were killed, two bodies found, and three weapons captured in the 11th Inf. Bde. area Tuesday.

Co. A, 4-21 Inf. killed one NVA and captured his AK-47 rifle six miles southwest of Duc Pho.

A Ranger patrol of Co. G, 75 Inf. working with **"Shark" gunships of the 174th Aslt. Hel. Co.** 8-1/2 miles northwest of Duc Pho, killed one VC and found two SKS rifles which the "Sharks" had destroyed.

A recon patrol of the 3-1 Inf. found a VC killed by artillery near a stream in foothills 15 miles southwest of Quang Ngai.

Co. D, 4-21 Inf. found two VC buried in graves three to four days old among eight more graves in an area 5-1/2 miles southwest of Duc Pho.****

Thirteen Americal soldiers were wounded and evacuated for medical treatment, according to an initial report.

Vol. 3 No. 100 Thursday April 10, 1969 Americal Daily Newsheet

MIRACLE SAFETY REMINDER
ADDITION:
DRINK
\+ DRIVE

DISASTER

****

CHU LAI (AMERICAL IO)--Action was light in southern I Corps yesterday, with Americal Division units reporting one NVA and eight VC killed, 15 suspects detained, and one weapon captured.

****

IRON MOUNTAIN--Four VC were killed, and seven enemy suspects detained in scattered action in the 11th Inf. Bde.'s area of operation.

A **"Shark" gunship of the 174th Aslt. Hel. Co.** killed one VC among hootches 5-1/2 miles southeast of Duc Pho.

Co. B,1-20 Inf. killed a VC, who was thought to be a security chief, 5-1/2 miles southeast of Duc Pho. The company also detained five VC suspects in the same area.

E Trp., 1st Cav. killed another VC along the coast three miles east of Duc Pho.

Co. C, 26 Eng. Bn. was working in an area a half mile north when it came under fire from an enemy bunker. The company returned fire and blew the bunker up with an M-72 LAW which killed one VC.

Two enemy suspects were detained by Co. D, 3-1 Inf. six miles southeast of Duc Pho.

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One Americal soldier was killed, and 11 wounded and evacuated for medical treatment, according to an initial report.

Vol. 3 No. 101 Friday April 11, 1969

MIRACLE SAFETY REMINDER

There was a guy named Tose
Who was soon to DEROS
While swimming alone
Cramps made him moan
And Tose hit the bottom like Stone.

****

AMERICAL DIVISION NEWS

CHU LAI (AMERICAL IO)--Light action prevailed in southern I Corps yesterday, with Americal Division units reporting 10 VC killed, six enemy suspects detained, and one weapon captured.

****

IRON MOUNTAIN--The 11th Inf. Bde. reported eight VC killed and three suspects detained in its area.

Six of the VC were killed within a half mile of each other. Co. A, 4-21 Inf. was on a combat sweep on one side of the Song Ve River when it came under small arms fire just outside a village 13-1/2 miles northwest of Duc Pho. The company returned killing three VC, one male and two female.

The recon patrol of 4-21 Inf. was working with "Shark" gunships of the **174th Aslt. Hel. Co.** on the other side of the river, a half mile downstream, when they engaged three VC, killing two females near a structure and a male inside a bunker.

Another VC was killed when **Co. D, 1-20 Inf.** engaged three outside a village 4-1/2 miles northwest of Duc Pho. The company also detained an enemy suspect in a rice paddy six miles northwest of Duc Pho.

Co. A, 1-20 Inf. found a VC who had been killed by air strikes among hootches 2-1/2 miles northwest of Duc Pho.

Co. D, 3-1 Inf. detained two VC suspects in a rice paddy six miles south of Duc Pho.

****

Eight Americal soldiers were wounded and evacuated for medical treatment, according to an initial report.

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Servicemen are insured automatically for $10,000 unless they refuse in writing.

Americal Daily News Sheets- updated January 2015.
Volume 3 No. 116 Americal Daily New Sheet Saturday April 26, 1968

AMERICAL DIVISION NEWS

CHU LAI (AMERICAL IO) – Action was light in southern I Corps yesterday, with Americal Division units reporting four NVA and 26 VC killed, and eight weapons captured.

A gunship from the 174th Aslt. Hel. Co. killed one VC in the triple-canopy jungle 13 miles northwest of Quang Ngai.

At 1800, FAC airplanes directed air strikes which destroyed 18 structures and two bunkers nine miles northeast of Quang Ngai.

WO1 Kenneth G. Wood (Idaho Falls, Idaho) destroyed 15 structures while flying a "Musket" gunship of the 176th Aslt. Hel. Co. in support of the 5-46 Inf. 21 miles southwest of Chu Lai.

IRON MOUNTAIN-**Co. B of the 11th Inf. Bde.'s 1-20 Inf.** killed two VC after engaging 10 in a rice paddy 6 1/2 miles northwest of Duc Pho, also capturing a weapon, for the only kills reported in the brigade area.

Action the past week was light in southern I Corps, with Americal Division units accounting for 31 NVA and 131 VC killed, and 24 weapons, one crew-served, captured.

Sunday marked the second year of U.S. Army operations in the I Corps tactical zone. Americal Division, then Task Force Oregon, deployed into the Chu Lai area and began combat operations on April 20, 1967.

In operation Iron Mountain, the 11th Inf. Bde accounted for 20 NVA and 35 VC killed, as well as seven weapons captured.

The recon patrol of the 4-21 Inf., Saturday, found 18 NVA killed by air strikes that had been called into the day before by the patrol when it spotted an unknown size force moving through the jungle.

Six Americal soldiers were wounded and evacuated for medical treatment, according to an initial report. Eleven Americal soldiers were killed in action last week.

Vol. 3 No. 119 Tuesday April 29, 1969 Americal Daily Newsheet
MIRACLE WEATHER FORECAST 30 Apr 69 Partly cloudy, scattered rain, isolated thundershowers over mountains. High tomorrow 92 Low tonight 77

AMERICAL DIVISION NEWS

CHU LAI (AMERICAL IO)--Action was moderate in southern I Corps yesterday, with Americal Division units reporting four NVA and 51 VC killed, nine suspects detained, and four weapons captured.

****

IRON MOUNTAIN--Two NVA and 11 VC were killed in the 11th Inf. Bde. area, nine suspects were detained.

"Shark" gunships of the 174th Aslt. Hel. Co. engaged and killed nine VC in rice paddies two miles southwest of Duc Pho.

Two more VC were killed by **Co. B, 1-20 Inf.** in foothills 7-1/2 miles northwest of Duc Pho, after it received hand grenades from the two VC.

Co. D, 1-20 Inf. engaged two NVA killing one in a rice field below the foothills a mile away. An AK-47 was captured in the incident.

Another NVA was killed nine miles southwest of Duc Pho, by Co. A, 4-3 Inf. Co. A also found a small base camp 12 miles west of Duc Pho which had been abandoned for two to three months.

Co. A, 3-1 Inf. detained two enemy suspects on the beach 11 miles southwest of Duc Pho; one had a false I.D. card. The company detained two more suspects near Lake An Khe, nine miles southeast of Duc Pho.

E Trp., 1st Cav. detained five VC suspects during a search and clear mission 10 miles southeast of Duc Pho.

****

Two Americal soldiers were killed, and 21 wounded and evacuated for medical treatment, according to an initial report.

Vol. 3. No. 123 Saturday May 3, 1969 Americal Daily Newsheet
MIRACLE WEATHER REPORT May 4 Partly Cloudy, warmer tomorrow, showers in the mountains during the afternoon. Winds southeast gusting to 20 knots by noon. Temp. H 93 L 55 Humidity H 95 L 55

AMERICAL DIVISION NEWS

CHU LAI (AMERICAL IO)--Americal Division units encountered light action in southern I Corps yesterday, with a reported 19 VC killed and two weapons captured.

IRON MOUNTAIN--Five VC were killed when the recon patrol from the 11th Inf. Bde.'s 3-1 Inf. engaged seven among hootches along Highway 1, 9 1/2 miles southeast of Duc Pho, for the only kills reported in the brigade area.

Co. C, 4-21 Inf. engaged an unknown size force 12 miles southwest of Duc Pho and followed blood trails to a wounded NVA who was detained.

Three Americal soldiers were killed and 13 were wounded and evacuated for medical treatment, according to an initial report. Sixteen Americal soldiers were killed in action last week.

Action the past week was mostly light in southern I Corps, with Americal Division troops accounting for 16 NVA and 164 VC killed, and 25 weapons, two crew-served, captured.

In Operation Iron Mountain, the 11th Inf. Bde. accounted for eight NVA and 25 VC killed, and three weapons captured.

"Shark" gunships of the 174th Aslt. Hel. Co. engaged and killed nine VC two miles southwest of Duc Pho, Monday.

Vol. 3 No. 127 Wednesday May 7, 1969 Americal Daily Newsheet

MIRACLE WEATHER FORECAST May 8 Possible scattered rain showers winds blowing from the east at 10 knots gusting to 15 knots. Temperature: H 95 L 75

AMERICAL DIVISION NEWS

CHU LAI (AMERICAL IO)--Action was light in southern I Corps yesterday, with Americal Division units reporting seven NVA and 12 VC killed, and three weapons captured.

* * * *

IRON MOUNTAIN -- Eight VC were killed and one weapon captured during light action in the 11th Inf. Bde.

Co. B, 3-1 Inf. was on a combat sweep with E Trp., 1st Cav. when they spotted and engaged several VC in rice paddies one mile south of Duc Pho. Co. B killed four of the enemy in the skirmish and E Trp. killed the other three.

A "Shark" gunship from the 174th Aslt. Hel. Co. killed a lone VC near the Tra Cau river 2 1/2 miles northwest of Duc Pho.

Nearby **Co. C, 1-20 Inf.** found a 45 caliber pistol which SP4 Donald A. Thorpe (Novi, Mich.), battalion S1 at LZ Liz said, "The pistol was very rusty and appeared to have been in the area for about two years." Co. C. also detained two suspects, one a female, in the same area. SGT Wilbur B. Brown said, "The girl gave us such a difficult time that we almost had to drag her to the command post. An interpreter said she would probably be a good source for information about VC activity in the area."

* * * *

Vol. 3 No. 131 Sunday May 11, 1969 Americal Daily Newsheet

MIRACLE WEATHER FORECAST May 12 Fair to partly cloudy, winds blowing from the southeast 10 knots gusting 18-20 in afternoon. Isolated showers in the area.
Temperature H 95 L 78 Humidity H 95% L 55%

AMERICAL DIVISION NEWS

CHU LAI (AMERICAL IO)--Light action prevailed in the southern I Corps yesterday, with Americal Division units reporting 25 NVA and 18 VC killed in 14 contacts.

* * * *

IRON MOUNTAIN--The 11th Inf. Bde. reported 25 NVA and eight VC killed in its area of operation.

The 1-4 ARVN Regt. reported the finding of 25 NVA soldiers who had been killed by air strikes within the last 24 hours in the mountains 12 miles west of Duc Pho.

Co. B, 3-1 Inf. was on a search and clear operation with E Trp., 1st Cav. near the coast six to 8 1/2 miles southeast of Duc Pho. Co. B found two VC killed earlier by mortar fire six miles southeast of Duc Pho, near where it found one VC in a shallow grave who had been killed two to three days ago by small arms fire. Later the company engaged and killed a VC in a bunker near Lake Ankhem 8 1/2 miles southeast of Duc Pho, nearby E Trp., 1st Cav. killed and VC. (huh??)

The recon patrol of the 3-1 Inf. killed another VC along the coast 10 miles southeast of Duc Pho.

A "Shark" gunship form the 174th Aslt. Hel. Co. engaged and killed two VC in a rice paddy 5 1/2 miles north of Duc Pho.

Co. A, 4-21 Inf. was on a search and clear mission 11 miles west-south-west of Duc Pho, when it came on to an enemy base camp with 35 bunkers and a mess hall with two stoves. A search turned up 50 training hand grenades and 16 training mortar tubes all made of wood, plus a small ammo cache with 200 boxes of SKS and .51 caliber ammo with 270 rounds in each box, 12 rifle firing grenades, 12 rounds of 82mm mortar, five 60 mm mortar rounds, and one bicycle. Nearby was another cache with 6,070 rounds of .51 caliber ammo, 15,800 boxes of SKS ammo, 12 hand grenades, and seven rounds of ..75 caliber recoilless rifle ammo.

Co. A, 1-20 Inf. found and destroyed 4-50,000 pounds of polished rice and 20 pounds of marijuana during a search of an area 5 1/2 miles northwest of Duc Pho.

* * * *

Action the past week was mostly light in southern I Corps, with Americal Division troops accounting for 58 NVA and 79 VC killed, and 100 weapons, 15 crew-served.

The 11th Inf. Bde. netted 34 NVA, 45 VC and seven weapons captured.

Three Americal soldiers were killed and 10 wounded and evacuated for medical treatment, according to an initial report. Sixteen Americal soldiers were killed in action last week.

Vol. 3 No. 134 Wednesday May 14 1969 Americal Daily Newsheet

MIRACLE WEATHER FORECAST May 15 Fair to partly cloudy, winds blowing east-southeast 5 to 10 knots and gusting to 20 knots in afternoon. Probable thundershowers over mountains. Temperature: H 96 L 80

AMERICAL DIVISION NEWS

CHU LAI (AMERICAL IO)--Enemy activity decreased in the past 24 hours in the Americal Division. Units reported killing 47 NVA and 40 VC and 18 weapons, three crew-served, were captured.

*****

IRON MOUNTAIN--"Jungle Warriors" of the 11th Inf. Bde. reported 40 NVA and 12 VC killed in southern Quang Ngai province yesterday. Six weapons, one crew-served, were captured.

Air strikes accounted for a large portion of the enemy kills in the bde.'s area.

Elements of the 1-4 ARVN Regt. and 4-3 Inf. reported 25 NVA killed by air strikes, 14 miles northwest of Duc Pho.

Co. C, 3-1 Inf. reported finding five NVA killed by air strikes and three more killed by air strikes and three more killed by small arms fire, five miles south of Duc Pho. At 1010 hours the same unit engaged and killed eight VC half a mile away.

After receiving RPGs and small arms fire, **Co. B, 1-20 Inf.** returned fire to kill four NVA, three miles west of Duc Pho.

Three VC were killed by **Co. C, 1-20 Inf.** who was on a search and clear mission with E Trp., 1st Cav. in fields five miles west of Duc Pho. Earlier the Cav. unit found one AK-47, one M-1 carbine and a M-14 rifle.

Thirteen miles northwest of Duc Pho Co. A, 4-3 Inf. found two NVA killed by air strikes and captured an AK-47 rifle. The unit later found one RPG launcher and seven rounds, two Chicom grenades and two green uniforms, all in the same vicinity.

A VC killed by **174th Aslt. Hel. Co.** was found by the 19th Eng.'s seven miles southeast of Duc Pho. Also found was an AK-47.

Co. B, 3-1 Inf. killed one VC in a rice paddy six miles south of Duc Pho.

Five miles further south Co. D, 4-21 Inf. found a large well-built enemy base camp with 25 hootches, each with its own bunker. One kitchen 20 by 20 feet and a 20 by 60 feet mess hall was included. The unit uncovered 500 pounds of rice, 20 entrenching tools, and NVA poncho liners.

* * * * Five Americal soldiers were killed, and four wounded and evacuated for medical treatment, according to an initial report.

Volume 3 No. 201 Americal Daily New Sheet Sunday July 20, 1969

CHU LAI AREA WEATHER FORECAST – July 21

Partly to mostly cloudy with rain over the mountains and isolated along the coast. Winds light and variable NE at 3 to 10 knots.

Temperature	H 94	L 79
Humidity	H 90	L 50

AMERICAL DIVISION NEWS

CHU LAI (AMERICAL IO) – Heavy fighting flared in the Americal Division's Operation Iron Mountain yesterday, as 11th Inf. Bde. soldiers killed 15 NVA and one VC and captured four weapons, two of which were crew-served.

Elsewhere, activity remained light in southern I corps as six VC and four NVA were killed in scattered action.

* * * * * *

IRON MOUNTAIN – At 0900 hours yesterday, D Co., 3-1 Inf, while sweeping an area six miles west of Duc Pho, came under a heavy barrage of mortar fire.

D Co. returned fire on the enemy position and killed two NVA soldiers.

The "Always First" soldiers soon learned that this encounter was to be the first of several contacts made in this jungle covered area in the next eleven hours.

A sister company, B Co., was soon deployed to the area, as were **"Shark" gunships from the 174th AHC,** "Warlords" from B Co., 123rd Avn. Bn., and airstrikes guided by Air Force FACS.

At 1240, a door gunner on the command and control helicopter for 3-1 Inf, killed a lone NVA soldier. About the same time, B Co. found the body of another NVA who had been killed by airstrikes.

While moving westward towards D Co., B C. engaged and killed two NVA and captured one AK-50 rifle.

A scout dog and handler from the 59th Scout Dog Plt., were working the area when the dog uncovered an NVA.

The NVA managed to shoot the dog, but the handler, wounded from the fire, dropped the insurgent.

CPT John S. Walder (Wakefield, R.I.) battalion S-3, described the enemy situation. "The NVA were in a trench line between two open fields with bamboo vegetation around the trenches."

The hard fought battle continued, as the two companies of "Always First" soldiers faced a well entrenched enemy.

Finally, at 1915 hours, the men were able to sweep through the enemy infested area. D co. killed five NVA and B Co. killed two more during the sweep.

All tolled, the "Always First" soldiers, with the help of timely air support, killed 14 NVA soldiers and captured three AK-47's, an AK-50, a rocket propelled grenade (RPG) launcher, and a 7.62 light machinegun.

While searching the coastal regions 14 miles southeast of Duc Pho, "Gimlets" from B Co., 4-21 Inf, engaged three VC with small arms fire, killing one during the encounter.

The last action of the day occurred at 1920 hours when C Co., 4-21 Inf killed an NVA soldier who was trying to evade, five miles south of Duc Pho.

Vol. 3 No. 236 Sunday August 24, 1969 Americal Daily Newsheet

CHU LAI AREA WEATHER FORECAST August 25
Winds will be from the south to south-east at 3-8 knots.

Temp.	Humidity
High--95	High--90
Low--78	Low--50

AMERICAL DIVISION NEWS

CHU LAI (AMERICAL IO)---Action tapered off in the Americal Division area yesterday, following intensive fighting that raged earlier in the week.

In Saturday's action, Americal soldiers accounted for 34 kills, 23 of which were NVA, and captured eight weapons.

* * * *

IRON MOUNTAIN--In yesterday's action in the 11th Brigade's operational zone, the "Old Guard" of D Co., 4-3 Inf. had a man rally to them at 0745, four miles northeast of Duc Pho.

SGT Wayne Ralston (Buffalo, N.Y.) gave the following account of the incident. "We had one mane walk into our night defensive position. The man said he had not eaten enough in four days, and was tired of being chased and running." The rallier said he was part of a 20-man element assigned to a .51 caliber machinegun.

Four hours later, the unit came across some fresh diggings. A search of the area uncovered a carbine.

In a Friday action, **"Sharks" of the 174th Assault Helicopter Company** were called on for support against an unknown size enemy force two miles south of Duc Pho. The final tally credited the gunships with killing 11 NVA. The men of the brigade S-5 section also detained two NVA in the same action.

** * * *

An increase in the tempo of fighting in southern I Corps during the past week resulted in 555 kills for Americal Division soldiers, 496 of which were NVA, Twenty-four weapons were also captured, four crew-served.

The fighting, although not as intense as Monday's or Thursday's continued to center around LZ West, Americal soldiers were credited with killing 45 more NVA Friday.

THE AMERICAL NEWS SHEET
MG Lloyd B. Ramsey, Commanding
MAJ John T. Pauli, IO
SGT Herb Harley, Editor
Telephone: Chu Lai 3212

Vol. 3 No. 261 Americal Daily New Sheet Thursday Sept. 18, 1969

CHU LAI AREA WEATHER FORECAST – Sept. 19
Cloudy with showers with winds from northeast and west at 5 to 10 knots.
[?northeast and west?]

Temperature	H 85	L 75
Humidity	H 98	L 60

CHU LAI (AMERICAL) – Southern I Corps continued to be the scene of light and scattered action Wednesday as Americal units killed 18 North Vietnamese Regulars and three Viet Cong. The bodies of 25 Communist soldiers, 17 NVA, were also reported discovered in the day's fighting.

IRON MOUNTAIN—In the first action of the day in the 11th's operational zone, the men of Alpha Co., 3-1 Inf. engaged a single VC as he attempted to evade them. The enemy was killed five miles west of Quang Ngai.

A North Vietnamese Army ambush on a Bde. convoy was successfully beaten off late Wednesday afternoon three miles south of Duc Pho.

Shortly before the ambush, Landing Zone Bronco, Bde. headquarters, received three enemy 122mm rockets.

"This is the second time this sequence of events has happened, "said Captain Barry D. Gasdek (Latrobe, Pa.), base defense commander. The enemy has tried to turn our attention to the direction from which the rockets are fired, thus enabling them to hit one of our convoys."

Shark gunships from the 174th Assault Helicopter Company and Cobras from the 123rd Aviation Battalion helped to route the ambushers.

A reaction force, Delta, Co., 4-21 Inf., was flown to the scene. Sweeping the area they made contact with the enemy force three times, killing five enemy, and capturing three AK-47s.

The convoy control helicopter was also credited with killing two communists.

In the final action of the day, a VC was killed by the infantrymen of A Co., 4-3 Inf. 16 miles west of Duc Pho shortly before dark.

Vol. 3 No. 341 Americal Daily New Sheet Wed. December 10, 1969
(These issues were obtained by James B. Simms and Mike Crutcher from Carlisle Barracks, PA.)

ON THIS DAY -- 1898

The Philippines, Guam and Puerto Rico were ceded to the United States by Spain for $20 million, ending the Spanish American War.

CHU LAI (AMERICAL) – Action was extremely light in southern I corps yesterday with Americal soldiers accounting for four enemy soldiers killed.

* * * * * *

IRON MOUNTAIN—Delta Company 4-21 Inf was operating with popular force (PF) soldiers securing Xuan Thang 3 mils NE of Duc Pho. The allied soldiers received small arms fire from 5 or 6 VC soldiers. The enemy was engaged resulting in one VC killed and one AK47 captured.

While operating northwest of Duc Pho 1-4 ARVNs found 8 dead VC. The VC had been killed by **"Shark" gunships of the 174th Aviation Company.**

At 1240 hours yesterday, **D Company 1-20 Inf.** while operating in the flatlands 5 miles west of Duc Pho detained 1 VC suspect.

TV PROGRAM SCHEDULE 13
AFVN CHANNEL 13, CHU LAI

WEDNESDAY 10 DECEMBER	THURSDAY 11 DECEMBER	FRIDAY 12 DECEMBER
1200 ED SULLIVAN	1200 LAUGH-IN SPECIAL	1200 HOLLYWOOD PALACE
1300 BONANZA	1300 GUNSMOKE	1300 BIG VALLEY
1400 MISSION IMPOSS.	1400 RINGLING CIRCUS	1400 DEAN MARTIN
1500 MID-AFT-NOON-RPT	1500 MID-AFT-NOON-RPT	1500 MID-AFT-NOON-RPT
1515 MOVIE	1630 JOEY BISHOP SHOW	1515 MOVIE
1700 THE KILLY STYLE	1700 BEV. HILLBILLIES	1630 PERRY MASON
1730 GENTLE BEN	1800 RAWHIDE	1730 NASHVILLE VIETNAM
1800 INFORMATION SPEC.	1840 HONEY WEST	1800 UNTAMED WORLD
1830 BIG VALLEY	1930 THE ROGUES	1830 GENERATION GAP
1930 EVENING NEWS	2000 EVENING NEWS	1900 THE KILLY STYLE
2000 SPORTS	2030 JULIA	1930 EVENING NEWS
2200 HAWAII FIVE-O	2130 PERRY MASON	2000 WILD WILD WEST
2300 11TH HOUR REPORT	2200 RICHARD DIAMOND	2100 STAR TREK
2320 TONIGHT SHOW	2300 DEAN MARTIN	2200 COLISEUM
	2320 MOVIE	2300 11TH HOUR REPORT
		2320 BOXING

Downloaded from the Texas Tech. Vietnam Center Web-site
Southern Cross emblem - **AMERICAL DAILY NEWS SHEET**

Vol. IV No. 246 Thursday September 3, 1970

Chu Lai (AMERICAL IO) – The southern part of the First Military Region witnessed light action yesterday as the troopers of this Americal Division
accounted for the deaths of 18 enemy soldiers.

GENEVA PARK

In two separate engagements yesterday, Alpha Co. 5-46 Inf., accounted for two enemy soldiers killed in an area west of Chu Lai.

While sweeping an area where they had encountered contact Tuesday night, Alpha Co. found one Viet Cong body. The enemy soldier had apparently died of wounds caused by small arms fire.

Later yesterday, the "Professionals" were inserted into another area west of Chu Lai by helicopters. While sweeping the area the infantrymen killed one green uniformed Viet Cong soldier.

IRON MOUNTAIN

In action Tuesday night in the mountains northwest of Duc Pho, Alpha Co, 4-3 Inf., accounted for four enemy soldiers killed. The NVA were killed as they approached the company's position.

While checking out the area of contact an additional NVA soldier was killed. A search of the area revealed three AK-47 rifles and one RPG launcher.

In other action Tuesday evening, the "Warlords" of the 123rd Aviation, while inserting infantry in the mountains north of Duc Pho, engaged a large
element of enemy soldiers. The guns of the aviators accounted for 15 of the enemy killed.

"Shark" gunships of the 174th Aviation, also in action Tuesday, accounted for three Viet Cong killed in an area north of Duc Pho.

Copy courtesy of former Civil Affairs officer of 3/1st Inf. Bn. David J. Eckberg August 2015.

Southern Cross emblem – **AMERICAL DAILY NEWS SHEET**
Vol. IV No. 240 Friday August 28, 1970 page 1

Chu Lai (AMERICAL IO) – The soldiers of the Army's largest division killed 10 enemy soldiers yesterday as light action continued to prevail in the southern part of the first Military Region.

IRON MOUNTAIN

While working near a PF unit northwest of Duc Pho yesterday, "Shark" gunships of the **174th Aviation**, engaged two NVA on the banks of the Song Tra Khuc River. A sweep of the area by the PF unit, revealed the enemy soldier killed by the gunships.

Working a short distance from the **"Sharks"**, Helix 37 accounted for two VC killed by an airstrike.

In other action, Bravo Co. 3-1 Inf., discovered an enemy bunker complex while operating in the lowlands northwest of Duc Pho early yesterday morning. A search of the bunkers revealed one AK-47, one automatic rifle, four CHICOM grenades and one medical bag.

Elsewhere, while on a sweep and clear mission in the lowlands south of Duc Pho, Alpha Co. 4-21 Inf., uncovered a 300 pound rice cache. The rice was found in a wooden box inside a small hut. A short time later it became apparent that Alpha Co. had broke up a VC rice detail when 15 bags containing 100 lbs of rice each and eighteen 55 gallon drums of rice were found scattered about a short distance from the first cache. The estimated three and one-half tons of rice was evacuated to LZ Bronco.

Later in the afternoon, Alpha Co. discovered a tunnel entrance that was a 55 gallon drum with a false bottom. The tunnel led to a small room where a canteen of water was found. After the Kit Carson scout of Alpha Co. had questioned a few people in the area, it was discovered that six VC had only left the tunnel a short time before Alpha co. arrived.

Did you know that ten thousand dollars worth of personal property was stolen in this area last month! Do not become the victim of a barracks thief, secure your valuables.

AFVN NEWS BRIEFS

PHONM PENH—Field reports in Cambodia say a strategic village north of Phnom Penh is under siege by 600 Viet Cong. Cambodian commanders have sent three government battalions aided by U.S. bombers to the village.

MIAMI—Cuban Premier Fidel Castro says American plots against him and his regime forces him to maintain strong military ties with Russia. He told this to the Cuban people yesterday in a Radio Havana broadcast monitored in Miami.

SAN CLEMENTE—President Nixon has designated September 13th as the start of National Hispanic Heritage Week. He has called for special ceremonies to celebrate the contribution of the Spanish to the nation's culture.

LONDON—London police have found suitcases loaded with five submachineguns and five-thousand rounds of ammunition in the Hilton Hotel. The police arrested two Lebanese and one American yesterday when they claimed the cases.

These references to the 174th Aviation Company came from the "Americal Magazine" This was the Americal Division Public Information quarterly publication that began in May 1968 and 12 issues later stopped after the division stood down in November 1971. Except for the first issue, all publications were printed with bright colorful presentations on glossy paper. The Public Information Office of the Americal also produced a book about the Americal Division that had history through the middle of July 1970. It was often referred to as the "Standdown Book" as any copies that remained in the division were handed out when the Americal Division stood down in November 1971.

The excerpts put in this document are not the full article, even though some of these are multi-page excerpts. The original source materials can be obtained from the ADVA Historian.

From the Americal Division Magazine - May, 1969:
Page 14 Photos: Swindell, Holloway & Fedorski

The Pacification Program

By SP4 TONY SWINDELL
11th Inf. Bde.

11 color photos are used to make the letter "P" that starts the word PACIFICATION. This takes up page 14 and a little of page 15. The bottom of this "P" and all the other letters are yellow with three red stripes (representative of the South Vietnamese flag).
(In blue color letters)

Call it "the other war," "pacification," "environmental improvement," or any other name, but it still boils down to the same thing - helping people. As the Government of Vietnam expands its control into remote, contested areas, programs to improve the conditions under which people exist receive as much consideration as battle plans, U.S. citizens, especially the military establishment, sponsor thousands of projects under the authority of GVN. Many fall within the term "civic action," which is "the participation by an agency, organization, or group in economic and sociological projects that are useful to the local population but for which the sponsor does not have primary governmental responsibility." Also, the formal program is augmented at all levels by the generous nature of the individual GI. The following article illustrates an Americal unit's objectives, activities, and methods in lending **assistance to the Vietnamese people.**

Just as important as defeating the enemy on the battlefield is neutralizing his influence over the people. This is the objective, the focal point for all the efforts of the 11th Infantry Brigade in carrying out its pacification program. It typifies the overall Americal Division concept of Winning and keeping the support and respect of the Vietnamese people and aiding the extensive activities of the Government of Vietnam (GVN).

The brigade S-5 section, headed by MAJ Russell D. Cox, manages the pacification program with the direct support of teams from the **29th Civil Affairs Co.** and the **7th Psychological Operations Bn.** It is the delicate task of the S-5 to maintain coordination and liaison between the Vietnamese people and officials and the units helping them, as well as handling any problems that may arise as a result of these relationships.

One aspect in which the ability and expertise of the S-5 section is particularly crucial is psychological operations (PSYOP). It is a powerful adjunct to the battlefield by persuading the enemy to surrender, lowering his morale, or planting seeds of doubt about his insurgency. The S-5 regularly conducts leaflet drops, anti-VC, anti-NVA, and pro-GVN broadcasts in surrounding villages and hamlets, and other intelligence activities which remind the enemy of his hopeless position and the government's advantages.

The loudspeaker broadcasts are especially effective as a means by which two other important parts of the PSYOP program are brought to the attention of the people-Chieu Hoi and VIP.

The Chieu Hoi program is a GVN-sponsored campaign which is actively supported by the S-5. It enables Viet Cong to rally to the government and, as Hoi Chanhs, become members-in-good-standing of Vietnamese society. (A complete discussion of the Chieu Hoi program appears in the January, 1969, Americal.)

(Continued 1)

(Continued 1) **The Pacification Program**

As well as for rallying messages, the loudspeakers are used to tell the populace about the Voluntary Informant Program, which has reaped rich rewards in ordnance and information in the 11th Bde. area.
During its regular forays into the countryside during 1968 and early 1969, **VIP teams** have collected several hundred tons of explosive ordnance and 63 individual weapons. Two Montagnard boys also led one group of "Jungle Warriors" to a buried, complete 105mm howitzer.

A vitally important and often unsung phase of VIP involves Vietnamese people who serve as informants about enemy activity and movement. The Duc Pho District Chief, MAJ Buu Tuong, conducts this aspect with the support of the brigade S-5. "We administer a complex organization through our S-2, which receives information from military, National Police, and civilian sources," he noted. "Not only do we collect information about armed enemy activity, we also try to uncover the local VC infrastructure and neutralize it. This includes observation of any suspicious activity by civilians who may be supporting VC units in our area."

Aiding MAJ Tuong is MAJ Alfonso E. Garcia, MACV senior district adviser, who provides technical assistance for the Vietnamese intelligence net. "The Vietnamese are setting up a system encouraging the people to supply information about the enemy to the government as well as the military and police units. Right now, their system roughly parallels our military intelligence."

On Oct. 24, 1968, an elite Vietnam-wide intelligence group was organized for the purpose of neutralizing the VC infrastructure. Named "Phoenix" (Phung Hoang), after the legendary Asian bird, the group symbolizes the highest ideals of the GVN movement against the VC, and since its inception has uncovered 148 confirmed VC in southern Quang Ngai province.

SGT Gary L. Taylor, team leader of the **7th PSYOP Bn.** group at LZ Bronco, elaborated on the task his men are doing to aid the Vietnamese program. "We have been increasing our intelligence activities in response to increased VC activity. We often work as an intelligence force with the Vietnamese Popular Forces (PFs) and the people themselves in an attempt to find out anything we can about the enemy-his supplies, movements, and weapons."

Another broad area of S-5 responsibility is support of the civil affairs program. Its main objective is to instill within the people a desire for a higher standard of living, and this must be done by making them aware of their own needs. The job is not to do for the people, but to provide the means by which they can accomplish the task themselves.

Directly handling this extensive program in the 11th Bde. AO is the **4th AA Plt., 29th Civil Affairs Co.,** led by 1LT Hugh H. Covington. The majority of their projects involve construction of permanent structures such as schools or wells, but they also supply help in such fields as animal husbandry.

Members of the platoon monitor the distribution and use of materials at a brick factory in Duc Pho which can manufacture more than 2,000 bricks daily and have involved themselves in the cross breeding of imported American with native Vietnamese pigs to improve the stock.

As the pacification of selected villages and hamlets accelerates, the coordination of all groups working with or supporting the 29th CA team becomes crucial. Since many other units have developed local programs of their own, great care must be taken to avoid duplication of effort.

(Continued 2)

(Continued 2) **The Pacification Program**

SFC Edward Lawrence, **4th AA platoon** sergeant, remarked: "We have to make sure that we reach as many people as possible. At a refugee camp in Duc Pho, the people are in great need of food and clothing after having been driven from their homes. My men regularly gather C-rations, food from the mess halls, clothes, soap, and other discarded but still useful items and distribute them in the camp." His men distributed more than a quarter of a million pounds of food and soap in 1968.

If the Vietnamese feel that they a need in any particular area, they are encouraged to bring it to the attention of the **CA platoon**, and anything that will improve the lives of the people will be considered. Fresh vegetables had long been a scarcity in the Duc Pho refugee camp, and the CA men, after consultation with local officials, helped to supervise the establishment of garden plots, distributing boxes of bean, lettuce, tomato, and other seeds.

SGT Lawrence feels optimistic about the progress of the pacification movement. "The situation is much better than it was last year at this time. The people have begun to show an active interest in the program, and they are showing appreciation for our concern about their welfare."

Nguyen Phong, Duc Pho district agricultural adviser, commented on the assistance of the CA teams. "These men have been much help in showing us new agricultural methods and new vegetables. To many of the people in Duc Pho, the ability to

B&W photo - Center 1/3 of page 16&17 have a young Vietnamese boy sitting on the shoulder of an 11th Bde MP.

raise different kinds of vegetables for their families means that they will be better able to take care of themselves. Now they will be able to eat the food which they have grown instead of buying it, as they have done before."

If the concept of "self-help" is watchword for civil affairs, it is also the cornerstone of the GVN program Revolutionary Development, echoing a theme of a better Vietnam created by the Vietnamese people themselves It parallels civil affairs very closely but also adds the necessity of providing self protection, called Popular Self Defense Force (PSDF).

Much of the growth of the PSDF is directly attributed to the bitter resentment of the enemy left by the 1968 TET offensive. Despite political obstacles, large and viable self-protection organizations have been created by the people in most of the populated areas of southern I Corps. Visible evidence is seen of the program in the form of static guard posts, training sessions, road barricades, and hamlet fences and gates.

The PSDF has a critical role in the current pacification effort because it increases the security provided to the population and encourages the people themselves to actively participate. Other benefits arising from the program are the acquisition of a commitment by the people to the national government, activities that bring the people in frequent contact with the government, and the development of a dynamic political leadership on a local level.

In the Duc Pho area, support for the PSDF is constantly growing. Presently, 14 hamlets with 37,066 inhabitants boast a strong program, and most are strategically located to provide protection along highway 1 north and south of Duc Pho.

With the hamlets and villages defended and the people working toward their economic and social betterment, some efforts can be turned to the important job of education. Two projects in particular emphasize the support the 11th Bde. is giving in this-endeavor.

(Continuation 3)

(Continuation 3) **The Pacification Program**

The first is the General Walt Vietnamese Scholarship Fund, which was established to assist needy and deserving children in I Corps.

It originally began because it was found that only a few children ever graduate from high school due to a lack of sufficient funds within the families. In the 11th Bde. area, students chosen to receive the scholarships are awarded 500 piasters a month throughout the school year for books, school supplies, and the teachers salaries, since in Vietnam, instructors receive their pay from the students. Those chosen are often the children of Vietnamese soldiers killed by the enemy.

Another aspect of aid to education is for American soldiers to volunteer to teach in the Vietnamese schools when the need arises. One example occurred in Duc Pho, when one of the orphanages asked the **4th AA Plt.** if they could help in obtaining an English instructor. Several members of the team eagerly volunteered and began conducting classes. So far, the men have taught 316 classes, reaching a total of 5,845 students.

The "Jungle Warriors" also help the pacification effort through the extensive MED CAP program. Teams from the **4th Bn., 3rd Inf; 1st Bn., 20th Inf.; 174th Aslt. Hel. Co.; 75th Med. Det.; 11th Bde. HQ Co.; and Bde. Surgeon's office** make regular visits to the surrounding countryside. During 1968 and early 1969, more than 55,000 patients were treated.

The results of the pacification program will not be measured in money spent, food distributed, or resources expended, because a materialistic approach to pacification cannot provide an effective yardstick of success. It will have succeeded when we can see in the Vietnamese people a sense of self-sufficiency, determination for a better life, and dynamic political leadership on a local level.

Americal Division Magazine - May, 1969

A M E R I C A L L O G

A QUARTERLY RECAP OF MAJOR ACTION

After almost three months of sporadic contact with enemy forces in southern I Corps, Americal Troops met head-on the enemy's newest offensive and routed NVA and VC battalion-sized units in major action in late February.

As the quarter ended, the enemy offensive was in its sixth day, but reports of contact with enemy troops had subsided after the 1st Sqdn., 1st Cav. scored impressive victories in defense of Tam Ky and, patrolling throughout southern I Corps, turned up enemy launch sites.

Three major division operations - Vernon Lake II, Fayette Canyon, and Hardin Falls-were concluded Feb. 28. From Jan. 13 to Feb. 9, Operation Russell Beach threw two Americal battalions, plus Marine, Navy, and ARVN forces against the VC stronghold on the Batangan Peninsula.

FEBRUARY

Prior to the post-TET Offensive at the end of the month, action rarely fluctuated from day-to-day with few large contacts reported.

The 198th Bde.'s **1/52** uncovered 52 individual weapons on Feb. 9 in a VC classroom area 12 1/2 miles southwest of Tam Ky. Task Force Cooksey and Marine elements began to leave the Batangan Peninsula concluding the combat phase of Operation Russell Beach.

On Feb. 11, **3/18 and 6/11 Arty**. units killed 18 enemy when an 11th Bde. OP spotted 60 armed VC in the open, 11 miles west-northwest of Quang Ngai City.

Early in the month, two soldiers from the 11th Bde. and one from the 198th Bde. received the nation's second highest award, the Distinguished Service Cross, from the commander of the U.S. Army Vietnam, GEN Creighton W. Abrams.

After a lull during TET, more than 40 Allied positions in southern I Corps on Feb. 23 were attacked by enemy elements using rockets, mortars, recoilless rifles, small arms, and occasional ground probes.

Led by the **1st Sqdn., 1st Cav**. and **"Shark"** gunships of the **174th Aslt. Hel. Co.,** Americal forces rebounded sharply to kill 159 VC and 10 NVA and captured 32 weapons.

The **"Dragoons,"** aided by gunships of **F Trp., 8th Cav.**, killed seven NVA and 77 VC in fierce fighting in the Pineapple Forest west of Tam Ky. **"Shark" gunships killed 23 VC moving on the Duc Pho airstrip and netted 27 more at a rocket launch site six miles northeast of Duc Pho.**

After a one-day gap of mild action, the third platoon of B Trp. and all of **C Trp., 1st Sqdn., 1st Cav**. caught an estimated NVA battalion entrenched on a hill five miles south of Tam Ky and killed 167 in a six-hour battle. On the same day, gunships of the **123rd Avn. Bn.** netted 12 VC in support of an ARVN element 1 1/2 miles southwest of Quang Ngai City.

On February 28, Operations Vernon Lake II, Fayette Canyon, and Hardin Falls ended. The three campaigns combined for a total of 860 enemy kills, as compared to 26 American casualties.

Operation Vernon Lake II began Nov. 2 last year and involved the **3/1 and 4/21**, 11th Bde. Aimed at pushing the 3rd NVA Div. out of a long held bastion southwest of Quang Ngai City, the operation accounted for 455 enemy kills during its 119 days.

A M E R I C A L L O G
A QUARTERLY RECAP OF MAJOR ACTION

Combat action followed a cyclic pattern in March, April, and May, a period which debuted on the seventh day of the enemy's post-TET offensive and was characterized by standoff rocket and mortar attacks of brief duration and several abortive attempts at ground probes of Americal installations.

The offensive dragged into mid-March and, despite increased casualties, Americal forces beat back every enemy attack and lost no ground while scoring an over-whelming kill ratio against NVA and VC units.

April brought two weeks of relative quiet before another barrage of standoff attacks. May followed the same pattern with increased activity throughout the last half of the month.

Three division operational zones were enlarged in March and brigades began operating with ARVN units.

By SP5 BILL ELSEN

APRIL

A relatively quiet month, April saw the daily body count fluctuate very rarely as enemy units retreated to mountainous cover and only occasionally ventured out to start trouble. Fewer NVA were killed during April than had died in one week of action March 16-22.

On April 12, **C Co., 4/21,** 11th Bde., working 14 miles north-northwest of Duc Pho, located a well-camouflaged hut containing 26 poorly-concealed weapons, including 23 rifles of French, Chinese, and American make, two U.S. carbines, and an M-60 machinegun.

Five days later and 6-1/2 miles west of Duc Pho, C Co., 3/1, 11th Bde. killed six NVA and took two .50-cal machineguns mounted on tripods in secured positions.

As Americal began its third year of operations in southern I Corps April 20, action remained sporadic. **"Blue Ghost"** gunships accounted for 30 of 37 VC killed in the 1/1 area between April 19-23, and the recon unit of **4/21,** 11th Bde. found 18 NVA killed by air strikes 10-1/2 miles north-northwest of Duc Pho April 19.

Two days later, **D Co., 2/1,** 196th Bde. found almost 14 tons of rice buried near a river 19 miles northwest of Tam Ky.

F Trp. struck again a week later and accounted for 50 of 77 VC killed in the 1/1 area between April 26 and May 2. On April 28, **F Trp.** killed 17 VC 15-1/2 miles north-northwest of Tam Ky, and **"Shark" gunships of the 174th Aslt. Hel. Co.** killed nine VC two miles southeast of Duc Pho.

Americal Division Magazine - October, 1969

ARVN OUR VITAL PARTNER

Their physical appearances differ- the Americal soldier towering over his ARVN (Army of the Republic of Vietnam) ally. But they fight with equally high skill, and are teaming up to put the crunch on "Charlie."

Born in wartime and brought up with numerous bloody battles against enemy forces, one group of ARVNs, the **4th Regt., 2nd ARVN Div.**, has developed into a first-rate combat force.

It has participated in most operations organized within Quang Ngai Province, and its soldiers have put 12,500 enemy troops out of action and captured over 1,000. More than 450 Communist cadre, including an NVA lieutenant colonel, have defected to the ARVN regiment.

As testimony to its combat efficiency, 4th ARVN Regt. elements captured a 75mm recoilless rifle the VC planned to use in an attack against LZ Bronco, 11th Inf. Bde. headquarters.

ARVN troops had set up night ambush positions three miles north of the LZ along possible routes of enemy movement. Late that night, the luckless VC stumbled into the trap.

The ARVNs sprang the ambush, killing five and capturing not only the recoilless rifle and its ammunition, but also a log book containing the number of rounds the VC fired at LZ Bronco only a few days earlier.

Because of the regiment's efficiency, LZ Dragon, formerly manned by 11th Bde. soldiers, was turned over to the ARVNs in May. The regiment is stationed on Dragon to work with the 11th Bde. in securing the tactical operations area south of Quang Ngai City.

LTC Richard A. Jacoby, senior American advisor on LZ Dragon, coordinates operations with the 11th Bde. through a combined U.S.-ARVN tactical operations center.

Some 155mm howitzer batteries are perched on Dragon, as well as elements of the **2lst ARVN field artillery**, 81mm and 60mm mortar platoons, and 57mm recoilless rifles. When Americal and ARVN troops conduct a combined operation two basic planning methods are used In one approach, U.S. advisors and ARVN and Americal unit commanders hold informal discussions determining which units will participate in the operation and what their functions will be.

The second method of planning a combined assault is based on intelligence reports which identify areas of large enemy activity.

When an enemy concentration is detected, Americal and ARVN com-

(B&W) Photo captions - ARVN soldier aids Americal troops in providing security for C Co., 26th Engr. Bn., on a road-clearing project. Opposite page (page 21), during a break from the operation, ARVNs show new knife to engineer. Photo credits - Pearson

manders reach a mutual agreement on what units to deploy. The decision depends on location of friendly units relative to enemy positions, as well as tactical importance of operations engaged in at the time of the discovery.

ARVN and Americal units maintain close coordination throughout a combined operation. The ARVNs move parallel to Americal forces on combined combat sweep operations and often act as blocking elements for U.S. troops, pushing the enemy toward them.

(Continued 1)

Although they usually are supported by their own artillery, ARVN forces frequently receive artillery support from the 11th Bde. In like manner, the 11th does not hesitate to ask for support from ARVN artillery.

ARVN batteries function basically the same as an Americal battery except they do not employ the sophisticated Field Artillery Digital Computer System. An ARVN battery plots its targets mathematically without computers.

Besides close cooperation between Americal and ARVN artillery, ARVN infantrymen and **E Trp., 1st Cav.** frequently work together in combined sweeps. Such operations normally are planned at least one week in advance on the basis of intelligence reports.

If an ARVN commander feels he needs added support to accomplish his mission, he can request Americal armored personnel carriers (APC) to move with his unit, During a sweep in April, elements of the 4th ARVN Regt. and a platoon from E Trp. secured an area 11 miles north of Duc Pho.

"The ARVNs worked exceptionally well with us," said 1LT Tony Varda, executive officer of **E Trp.** "They were very cooperative, and this made the operation a complete success."

Helicopter support also plays a major role in U. S. ARVN operations.

The 174th Aslt. Hel. Co. (AHC) provides LTC Le Ba Khieu, 4th Regt. commander, with a command and control (C&C) helicopter. From his chopper, LTC Khieu controls his troops on the ground, maneuvering them toward enemy positions. He also directs artillery support from either Americal or ARVN batteries. When an ARVN unit contacts an enemy force, it is given all the helicopter support provided U.S. troops. This includes "Shark" gunships for added fire power, as well as Medevac helicopters.

Frequently, a "Smokey" chopper is included in a combat assault for greater security. The "Smokey" spreads a dense smoke around the landing zone to provide concealment for ARVN and Americal elements.

When ARVN units set up night defensive positions, they also can call on helicopter flare ships for, needed illumination.

-Statistics from the last 12 combined combat assaults involving **11th Bde.** and **4th Regt.** troops indicates the effectiveness of allied campaigns.

The combined units accounted for 266 NVA and 79 VC killed, and the capture of 18 crew-served and 68 individual weapons.

During Operation "Quyey Thang" (Strive For Victory), ARVN and Americal forces fought side by side, inflicting heavy casualties on the enemy. Results of the operation included 1,406 enemy soldiers killed.

Besides combat sweep operations, U.S. and ARVN soldiers often cooperate on engineering projects such as building firebases and constructing roads.

In one seven-day operation, elements of the **11th Bde.** and **4th Regt.** teamed up on a road clearing mission five miles west of Quang Ngai City.

Division combat engineers from **C Co., 26th Engr. Bn.** cleared a 200-meter swath on either side of a road connecting the province capital to a firebase four miles west. The **ARVN's 3rd Bn.** provided security, and additional fire support came from the **11th Bde.'s E Trp., 1st Cav.,** and the **1st company of the 4th ARVN Tank Bn.**

The combined team met with only sporadic sniper fire as they pushed ahead, widening the existing strip of road to prevent ambushes against truck convoys supplying the firebase.

(Continued 2)

1LT James Kosman, platoon leader with **E Trp.**, praised ARVN efforts: "They did an excellent job of clearing the way up ahead, and they kept us well-informed all the way."

As U.S. and ARVN bulldozers cleared brush and leveled hedgerows, two ARVN infantry companies set up forward, providing flank and rear security.

Americal APCs maintained local security as the ARVN tank company deployed along the flanks with the infantry units.

A member of Advisory Team 2, Quang Ngai City, which has been working with the ARVN battalion for nearly a year, spoke highly of the unit. "They are fine soldiers," said Australian Warrant Officer Bob Cameron. "They show a great willingness to learn and make good fighters."

As the operation drew to a close, PFC Richard Rosa, **C Co., 26th Engrs.**, said, "The ARVNs did a fine job of pulling security for us and were very easy to get along with. It was a smooth operation."

ARVN and Americal forces also worked closely in establishing a hilltop firebase seven miles west of Quang Ngai City.

Holding a commanding view of the surrounding area, the hill sits on the edge of the 11th Bde.'s **3rd Bn., 1st Inf.** area, and is the staging point for intensive pressure against local-force VC.

Assigned to preliminary work of clearing the new firebase, **A Co., 3-1** began digging in and prepared a temporary helicopter pad for the first loads of supplies and equipment brought in. ARVN units secured the surrounding area.

Official name of the firebase is "LZ 4-11" in recognition of combined efforts between men of the 4th Regt. and the 11th Bde.

Fighting together, Americal and ARVN soldiers have grown to respect each other. Through the success of their combined operations and strong spirit of cooperation, they have hurt the enemy and continue to strike as an efficient combat team.

Americal Division Magazine - January, 1970

A QUARTERLY RECAP OF MAJOR ACTION

Combat action during the three month period of September, October, and November was characterized by small unit contacts scattered throughout southern I Corps.

Americal troops killed more than 1,049 enemy soldiers, 565 of whom were NVA; captured 104 weapons; and destroyed or evacuated more than 74 tons of rice.

September saw the fighting switch from Hiep Duc Valley to the "Rice Bowl," six miles south of Duc Pho. Also in September was the heaviest fighting as NVA sappers tried to overrun LZ Siberia in a vicious fight that resulted in the defenders throwing back the assault and inflicting heavy casualties on the enemy.

October and November were "quiet" months in southern I Corps as the "lull" and extreme monsoon rains hampered allied activity. The heaviest fighting of the two months centered around Tam Ky and Duc Pho where Americal troopers struck devastating blows not only to the enemy himself but to his food staple-rice. Americal troops captured more than 60 tons of rice in those two months.

By SP4 HARRY BAUMANN

NOVEMBER

The month of November was characterized by sporadic small unit contacts in which Americal soldiers killed 367 enemy soldiers.

Southern I Corps was extremely quiet during the first week of November but action picked up on November 6 when **C Co., 3-21** killed seven NVA soldiers 14 miles northwest of Tam Ky.

On November 7, three Americal Division soldiers released by the VC dined on steak, potatoes, chocolate cake and ice cream in their first hearty meal in many months at the **91st Evac. Hospital** at Chu Lai.

The soldiers, SP4 Willie A. Watkins, (Sumter, N.C.), SP4 James R. Strickland, (Dunn, N.C.), and PFC Coy R. Tinsely (Cleveland, Tenn.) joked with hospital attendants as they ate.

"This beats the rice and fish sauce," Watkins said as he cut into his steak. The soldiers had been in the Viet Cong hands since January 1968.

In widespread action later on in the month, **"Shark" gunships of the 174th Avn. Co.** chalked up nine VC in action 17 miles northwest of Duc Pho. Operating three miles north of Duc Pho, **A Co., 1-20 Inf.** killed seven enemy in two brief encounters.

Taking to the air again, Americal gunships of the **176th Avn. Co.**, in an early morning battle, killed 12 VC after pursuing them over the rolling hills and thick jungle 11 miles northwest Quang Ngai.

The heaviest fighting of the month broke during the three day period of November 16-19.

The largest action of the three day period came on the 19th when "Warlord" gunships of the **123rd Avn. Bn.** killed 10 VC while operating 12 miles northeast of Quang Ngai City. Later the same day , troopers of the 196th Bde. combined for a total of 17 enemy kills for the highest total of the month.

"We found 20,000 pounds of rice inside the false walls of the hooch and it was in 55 gallon barrels and in bags hidden under large piles of straw. Everywhere we looked there was rice."

With these words SSG Lon Engwise (Midland, Mich.) described the results of a search 15 miles northwest of Tam Ky which netted one of the largest rice caches ever found in southern I Corps.

Americal Division Magazine - January, 1970

16th CAG Metal Angels Of Hope & Mercy

By SP4 CRAIG COUTURE

16th Cbt. Avn Grp.

Nineteen Hueys cast dark silhouettes against the lava-red South China Sea. The early morning sky was blazed scarlet and clouds formed delicate designs that a carefree mind could mold into anything it fancied. But to a number of men of Americal's 16th Combat Aviation Group (CAG) the significance of their mission left little time for such pleasant diversions.

On this particular morning, 500 infantrymen had to be lifted into an area where the Viet Cong were suspected of hiding. The operation was a fairly large one; there would be two assaults. The first involved carrying over 200 men of the **1st Bn., 6th Inf.**, 198th Inf. Bde. into a valley 15 miles west of Chu Lai. The second was an assault involving more than 300 men from the **1st Bn., 6th Regt., 2nd ARVN Div.** into the same general area.

Gunships approached the LZ first, firing their rockets and miniguns at any suspicious areas. The command and control ship dropped down and marked the LZ with smoke grenades. The smoke ship, affectionately called "Smokey" followed and circled the area with a protective ring of heavy smoke to conceal the approaching troop-carrying "slicks."

Despite small arms fire that kept bursting from the bushes of the surrounding hillsides, both assaults flown by the **176th Avn. Co.** were successful in bringing Americal and ARVN soldiers to the enemy's doorstep.

Providing such air mobility and direct air support for the Americal and 2nd ARVN Div. is only one of many services the 16th CAG renders to allied forces in the I Corps Tactical Zone.

The 16th Group was first activated and organized on Dec. 20, 1967 and became operational on Jan. 23, 1968, at the Marine Marble Mountain Air Facility, DaNang. This was just one week before the 1968 Tet Offensive exploded throughout Vietnam. The 16th Group, as their motto implies, was truly "Born in Battle."

Originally part of the 1st Avn. Bde., the 16th CAG was attached to the Americal Div. on Dec. 1, 1968. Within a week, the Group relocated from Marble Mountain to its present location at Chu Lai. The unit has the distinction of being the only aviation group in the U.S. Army assigned to an infantry division.

Intent upon carrying out its mission, the **16th CAG**, commanded by COL D. Townsend (Danbury, Neb.), is composed of a Hqs. and Hqs. Co., the 335th Trans. Co., and two battalions: the 14th CAB with units at Duc Pho and Chu Lai, and the 123rd CAB with units in the Chu Lai area.

The 14th Cbt. Avn. Bn. moved to Chu Lai from the Phu Bai Valley in 1967 to support Task Force Oregon. The battalion, commanded by LTC Jerry L. Teague (Alexandria, Va.), is comprised of the [**71st was omitted**] **174th** and **176th** Aslt. Hel. Companies (AHC) and the **132nd** and **178th** Aslt. Spt. Hel. Companies (ASHC).

(Continued 1)

(Continued 1) **16th CAG Metal Angels Of Hope & Mercy**

The **71st** Avn. Co. known as the "Rattlers" arrived in Vietnam in 1964. Three years later, the company moved to Chu Lai with the 196th Inf. Bde. as part of Task Force Oregon and have consistently supported that unit in the Americal's northern area of operations. In recent months, the "Rattlers" have supported the 196th Bde. in numerous operations in the Que Son, Hiep Duc, Phouc Chau, and Phouc Cha Valleys.

Commanded by MAJ William M. Price (Fayetteville, N.C.), the **71st** set an envious record of 25 consecutive months of flying and over 50,000 combat hours without an accident in 1968.

Another unit with an envious safety record is the 174th AHC, located at Duc Pho. The company has the best accident free record in the Americal Div. with not a single accident in the current fiscal year. The pilots have a combined total of 10,500 accident free flying hours. In that time, the company has carried 75,000 passengers and 2,500 tons of cargo. To the soldier in the field that means a hot meal everyday and a quick trop to the rear when stand-down comes. While compiling its record the 174th has flown nearly 50,000 sorties, including night combat assaults, "dust-off" missions, and emergency ammo resupply.

Under the leadership of MAJ Virgil E. Blevins (Beeville, Tex.), the 174th has three flight platoons and boasts a motto of "Nothing Impossible" in carrying out its mission to support the 11th Inf. Bde. The troop-carrying aircraft are called "Dolphins" and the gunships called "Sharks."

To the infantrymen, the sight of the "Shark" gunships working out on the enemy while the "Dolphins" bring in the much needed ammunition is a vision long remembered. As one infantry officer said, "The Sharks give a morale boost to us and scare the devil out of the enemy. After the Sharks shoot up an area, you can count on it being quiet the rest of the night.

Another constant source of support for troops on the ground are the "Minutemen" of the **176th AHC** commanded by MAJ O.R. Hite (Staunton, Va.). Since 1967, the **176th** has been supporting the 198th Inf. Bde.

During August 1969, aviators of

Graphics - Two drawings of helicopters with the Americal Division patch nose art on each of the helicopters. The drawings are credited to "Anthony". (Note-the nose art identifies the helicopters as 3rd flight platoon helicopters from A/123rd Cbt Avn Bn.).

the **176th** averaged 94 flying hours and was awarded the Americal Accident Prevention Award for the month.

(Continued 2)

(Continued 2) 16th CAG Metal Angels Of Hope & Mercy

To provide tactical air movement of combat, combat support, and combat service support units in the Americal area of operations is the mission of the **132nd ASHC**. The company, commanded by MAJ William Jones (Glendall, Calif.), started operations with its Boeing-Vertol CH-47B Chinooks in May 1968. Since then the **"Hercules"** Chinooks of the **132nd** fly an average of 1,000 hours a month lifting over 10,000 passengers and over 5,000 tons of supplies. Their motto of "Versatility, Reliability, and Endurance" describes the support the **132nd** gives daily to the Americal.

Invaluable support is also given to the combat soldier by the **178th ASHC** commanded by MAJ Robert W. Parker (Secane, Pa.). The **"Boxcars"** arrived in Vietnam in April 1966 and moved to Chu Lai as part of Task Force Oregon.

The **178th** have to their credit the distinction of being the first unit to move a complete 155mm howitzer battery in one lift. Once the troops are safely in a combat area, it is up to the "Hercules" Chinooks to keep them supplied and combat ready.

123rd Cbt. Avn. Bn., like its sister battalion, provides air mobility and direct air support to elements of the Americal Div. The battalion, led by LTC Richard K. Dietsch (Manchester, N.H.), prides itself on the professionalism and consciousness in supporting the division. The battalion is comprised of **A and B Companies; Hqs. and Hqs. Co. E Co., 723rd Maint. Bn; F Trp. 8th Cav; and D Trp., 1st Sqdn., 1st Cav.**

Providing the Americal with general aviation support is the primary mission of A Co., 123rd CAB. While B Co. essentially has the role of an air cavalry troop. Man of **B Co.'s** missions are visual reconnaissance operations in which a team of four aircraft, one Light Observation Helicopter (LOH), two Cobra gunships, and one Huey "slick" with five infantrymen aboard search an assigned area for signs of enemy activity. During the past year, B Co. accounted for 429 enemy kills.

Known as the "Blue Ghost," F Trp. 8th Cav. arrived in Vietnam in October, 1967. Commanded by MAJ Charles E. Ivey (Urbana, Ill.), F Trp. has the primary mission of gathering intelligence. The unit accomplishes this by means of aerial and ground reconnaissance making maximum use of its firepower, communications, and mobility.

An organic infantry platoon, nicknamed the "Blues," is used for insertions to perform detailed searches of an area. Normally with the insertion of the "Blues" the aerial recon teams consisting of two Cobras and a LOH, screen in the immediate vicinity and provide armed escort for the platoon.

A newcomer to the 16th Group is **D Trp., 1st Sqdn., 1st Cav.**, who arrived in Vietnam on May 1, 1969. D Trp., called the **"Sabres,"** extends the reconnaissance and security capabilities of ground units by aerial means. To find the enemy, fix his position, and then annihilate him is the mission of the **"Sabres."**

Providing the Americal with aircraft direct support maintenance is **E Co., 723rd Maint. Bn.** The job of this unit like that of the **335th Trans. Co.** is to support and help maintain the aviation units assigned to the Americal.

The officers and men of the **16th CAG** pride themselves on the ability to do their jobs well regardless of any difficulties. With courage and determination and the professional competence of its subordinate units, the **16th CAG** supports the Americal in I Corps.

Graphic black ink drawing of a helicopter being pre-flight inspected.
(Nose art identifies it as a 3rd Flt. Plt **A/123rd Avn Bn** helicopter.)

Americal Division Magazine - July, 1970

A QUARTERLY RECAP OF MAJOR ACTION

AMERICAL LOG - Prologue

Combat activity in Southern I Corps increased considerably in the quarter of March, April and May. Major battalion and company-sized contacts again centered around Tam Ky and the resettlement village of Hiep Duc.

More than 2,000 enemy soldiers were killed by Americal Division units during the three-month period, while 503 weapons were captured, 28 of which were crew-served.

In March, combat action was quite heavy, though sporadic throughout the division as Americal units accounted for more than 680 enemy soldiers killed.

In the month of April, fewer enemy were killed, but and increase in the size of unit contacts was noted.

In May, a sharp rise in enemy activity was noted with several rocket attacks on Chu Lai and a flare up of fighting in the resettlement village of Hiep Duc, 22 miles northwest of Tam Ky.

By SP4 DENNIS SELBY

MARCH

The first two weeks of March saw light to moderate action, with the Americal cavalrymen playing an important role in several skirmishes with the enemy.

On March 9, a task force of **Bravo Company, 2nd Bn., 1st Inf. F Troop, 1-1 Cav.,** and **Delta Co., 3-21 Inf.** killed 15 enemy soldiers in a seven hour battle, 13 miles northwest of Tam Ky.

An element of **Bravo Company, 2-1 Inf.** and **F Troop** swept the southern bank of a stream; while other elements of the same units moved along the northern edge of the waterway.

Contact was made almost immediately with the enemy. "We were next to the water when a VC ran across a trail and dove for the cover of a spider hole," said SP4 Charlie Callahan (Imperial, Mo.).

The 196th Inf. Bde. soldiers brought down the enemy with a barrage of hand grenades. Moments later, **Bravo Company** flushed three enemy from the heavy foliage. "They ran into the stream and tried to reach the woodline on the other side," stated Callahan. A burst of M-16 fire brought down the three foe.

"We kept making contact all day," said PFC Larry Lamoreaux (Sergeant Bluff, Iowa). "We had at least ten fire-fights throughout the day and killed 12 enemy soldiers."

(Continued 1)

(Continued 1) **Americal Division Magazine - July, 1970**

On March 19, Major General Lloyd Ramsey, commanding general of the Americal Division was hoisted from the thick jungle where he had been stranded overnight following the crash of his command and control UH1 helicopter in which two men were killed and six injured (One of the men killed was Ray Murphy **A/123rd Avn Bn**).

Army and Air Force rescue units flew to the area and an infantry element of the **1st Bn., 6th Inf.** was airborne to within two miles of the crash sight.

Radio contact was lost at 4 p.m. Wednesday, March 19 and was not regained until 8 a.m. when Major Tommy P. James (unit-**71st AHC**)(Bixby, Okla.) arrived in the area in a helicopter.

Major James was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross for his outstanding actions in the successful rescuing of the downed personnel.

On March 22, following the injury of General Ramsey, Major General A.E. Milloy (Fayetteville, N.C.) assumed command of the Americal Division.

MG Milloy, a distinguished combat veteran of three wars and a master parachutist, assumed command of the Americal following seven months as the commanding general of the 1st Infantry Division.

APRIL

The month of April was ushered in with several attacks on firebases of the 198th Inf. Bde.

Incoming small arms fire, RPG's, 60mm mortar fire and satchel charges erupted in the early morning hours of April 1, as an undetermined number of VC were repulsed following a futile attempt to penetrate LZ Bayonet, headquarters of the 198th Inf. Bde.

The 30-minute mortar barrage which initiated action one mile south of Chu Lai, sent the ready-reaction force to the bunker line.

Artillery, mortar and gunships teamed up to saturate the outer perimeter of Bayonet with deadly fire, killing one VC.

In similar action, two platoons of **B Co., 5-46 Inf.** fought off a fierce ground attack on LZ Fat City, five miles northwest of Chu Lai the same morning. The action accounted for one VC killed, one VC detained and an AK-47 captured.

On April 16, infantrymen of **C Co., 2-1 Inf.**, gunships and ground troops of F Troop, 8th CAV., teamed up to bring down eight VC in an operation 11 miles northwest of Tam Ky.

(Continued 2)

(Continued 2) **Americal Division Magazine - July, 1970**

The action began when a **"Blue Ghost"** gunship located six VC. The ship swooped down, guns ablaze and killed the six enemy.

The **Blue Ghost** infantry platoon was inserted into an area as **Charlie Company, 2nd Bn., 1st Inf.** swept in from the other side. The Blue Ghost platoon made instant contact, killing two more VC, with small arms fire.

On April 20, twenty-two NVA fell to rocket and gunfire of the 174th Avn. Co. (Assault Helicopter) in the 11th Brigade area of operation as the "Shark" gunships turned a routine combat assault into a two hour air-ground battle.

While the company's "Dolphin" utility ships were lifting in one battalion of the **4th ARVN Regiment** and a rifle company of the **3rd Bn., 1st Inf.** into landing zones 20 miles northwest of Duc Pho, a heavy fire-team of gunships spotted fresh .51 caliber gun emplacements.

Said CPT Stephen S. Riddle (Weaverville, N.C.), "While we were marking the enemy positions with smoke grenades, we spotted movement. We saw, engaged and killed three well-equipped NVA who were trying to evade along a river. Our rocket fire must have hit a command post because a company-sized element of confused NVA split into large groups and ran." It was then that the gunships were able to take full advantage of their lethal firepower and kill 19 more enemy soldiers.

In an action the following day, April 21, the recon element of the **1st Bn., 20th Inf.**, National Police Field Force and "Shark" gunships teamed up to kill 15 VC while detaining 10 VC suspects.

Three AK-47 rifles and three SKS's were confiscated in the action which took place in the lowlands six miles north of Duc Pho.

In a "non-action" in the 11th Brigade area of the 22nd of April, Bravo Company, **4th Bn., 3rd Inf.** uncovered a 10 to 15 ton salt cache in the mountains six miles west of Duc Pho. The cache was discovered in a pit inside a well-camouflaged hooch. The hut was located near a well-used trail.

Americal Division Magazine - Fall, 1970

AMERICAL LOG

(Photo of helicopter in left quarter of page.)

Prologue

Action in Southern First Military Region decreased slightly in the second quarter of the year as soldiers of the Americal collected a long overdue debt from the NVA at Kham Duc. Over two years since the Kham Duc operation was lost to the 2d NVA Division, the remote **Special Forces** advised **CIDG** camp was retaken by the same Division units that played a central role in the harrowing evacuation of allied forces in May of 1968.

During June, July and August units of the Division accounted for more than 1700 enemy killed and denied the enemy of his much needed food supply by capturing over 133 tons of rice. The enemy also lost 534 weapons, of which 32 were crew served.

The month of June saw Division soldiers quell a major NVA offensive in the secluded Hiep Duc Valley. In heavy company-sized contacts, the Americans defeated elements of the 1st NVA Regiment, killing 590 of the enemy soldiers. The month of July saw a decrease in action throughout the area of operations.

The month of August saw a rise in activity resulting in the deaths of 593 of the enemy in many small vicious firefights.

By SP4 Gary Jensen

AUGUST

Action flared on the 5th of the month as 16 VC were killed by the **174th Aviation Company** while they were covering a combat assault in the lowlands northwest of Duc Pho.

Americal Division Magazine - Fall 1971

AMERICAL LOG
By SP4 MARK A SCHULZ

Action in the 23d Infantry Division's (Americal) area of operations (AO) slacked off slightly between June, 1970 and June 1971 except for action during certain periods, as more emphasis was placed on pacification and Vietnamization, especially toward the end of this period.

During this 12-month period, five long-standing operations were ended and three new operations were initiated.

Operations Frederick Hill, Pennsylvania Square, Geneva Park, Nantucket Beach, and Iron Mountain, all ending in April, accounted for 15,208 enemy killed, 3,812 weapons captured and 342 crew-served weapons captured.

These operations were replaced on March 1 with Operations Middlesex Peak, Finney Hill and Caroline Hill

JANUARY 1971

The new year was characterized by light to moderate action, but the year started off with heavy activity when **LAMSON 719** began.

Operation LAMSON 719 was a large, complex operation designed to sever the enemy's supply lines and destroy the stockpiles along his supply routes in Laos. American forces were to reopen QL-9 through Khe Sanh to the Laotian border. ARVN forces would then attack into Laos to interdict the enemy's supply routes.

Logistical and airmobile support would be provided by the United States. To insure the security of QL-9, a shifting of American forces westward toward the Laotian border had to occur.

The 23d Infantry Division was called upon to place forces under operational control, and augment those of the **101st Airborne Division (Airmobile)** and the **1st Brigade, 5th Mechanized Division**. Elements of the 23d Infantry Division began moving north on January 29-the date of movement depending upon the unit. **4th Battalion, 3rd Infantry** moved north on January 29, 1st Squadron, **1st Cavalry** arrived at Tam Ky on January 30. **F Troop, 8th Cavalry** moved north on January 29, as did the 116th Assault Helicopter Company, 176th Assault Helicopter Company and the 178th Assault Support Helicopter Company.

Headquarters Company, **71st and 174th** Assault Helicopter Companies moved north at the same time, and formed the 14th Combat Aviation Battalion, Also, **1st Battalion, 82nd Artillery** was moved north to support operations for Jefferson Glen and LAMSON 719.

This is an example of a Division Intelligence Summary. Entry "m" below references a **174th Avn** incident that was mis-reported as a 176th Aviation Company incident. Only one of these documents was transcribed as the focus was to work the more common and detailed S2/S3 type of reporting.

AVDF-CB 15 August 1969
SUBJECT: INTSUM #226-69 (U)

(d) 140655H, D/1-20 Inf, BS715436, fd 1 NVA body, 2 AK-47 rifles, misc docu (NFI). Res: 1 NVA KA, 1 IWC.
(e) 140745H, R/4-21 Inf BS841288, fd 1 NVA body, 1 .45 cal pistol, misc docu (NFI). Res: 1 NVA KIA, 1 IWC.
(f) 140850H, 1-20 Inf, BS766437, veh det unk type mine. Res: 1 US KIA.
(g) 140935H, R/4-21 Inf BS845293, eng UNSEF. Res: 1 VC KIA.
(h) 141140H, A/4-21 Inf, BS913223, det 2 VCS; following items CIA: 4 AK-47 mags w/100 rds, 3 Chicom H/gren, 1 1 lb block TNT.
(i) 141230H, C/3-1 Inf, BS563741, fd 2 VC KHA. Res: 2 VC KIA.
(j) 141230H, 4-3 Inf, BS634380, rec 1 75mm RR rd and SA fire fm UNSEF. NCD.
(k) 151255H, C/3-1 Inf, BS564741, fd 2 VC KBA. Res: 2 VC KIA.
(l) 141320H, C/3-1 Inf, BS564732, fd 1 NVA KBA. Res 1 NVA KIA.
(m) 141500H, 11th Bde BS340900, 176th Avn, A/C hit on ground by mort fire. Res: 1 US KIA, 3 US WIA(E). ***[This was a 174th Avn helicopter not a 176th Aviation Company helicopter. CPL Donald Contarino, age 19, MOS 67N20 was killed in this incident Location BS344844 at Tra Bong Special Forces Camp.]***
(n) 141500H, A/4-21 Inf, BS918164, fd and dest 1 claymore mine rigged w/fishing line.
(o) 141515H, 11th Bde, BS764436, C/1-82 Arty, 5 ton trk det mine. Res: 1 US KIA, 1 US WIA(E), trk combat loss.
(p) 141517H, 11th Bde BS632368, 174th Avn, A/C rec AW fire fm UNSEF.A/C went down. Res: 1 US WIA(M).
(q) 141535H, C/4-3 Inf, BS627355, eng UNSEF. Res: 1 US WIA(E).
(r) 141550H, A/3-1 Inf, BS553745, rec sniper fire from UNSEF. Res: 1 US WIA(E).
(s) 141655H, 1-20 Inf and E/1 Cav, BS767438, eng 1 VC. Res: 1 VC KIA.
(t) 141700H, 11th Bde, BS764436, C/26 Engr fd and dest 1 50 lb pressure type mine.
(u) 141705, A/3-1 Inf BS5500750, eng UNSEF. Res: 1 VC KIA, 1 US WIA (E). 1 K-44 CIA.
(v) 141845, 4-3 Inf, BS633379, rec 3 52mm RR rds from UNSEF. NCD.
(w) 141940H, A/3-1 Inf. BS550750, rec SA fire from UNSEF. Res: 1 US WIA(M).

g. (U) On 9 April the **14th Combat Aviation Battalion** was notified that they would come under the operational control of TaskForce Oregon effective 20 April. The advance party of the battalion arrived at Chu Lai on 14 April and made arrangements for one assault helicopter company to park temporarily at Ky Ha Heliport. Of the two remaining assault helicopter companies, one would deploy to English Airfield in support of the 3d Bde, 25th Inf Div; this company could not fully deploy to Duc Pho due to the lack of maintenance facilities and local security. The other assault helicopter company would move temporarily to the cross-wind runway at Chu Lai Airfield until adequate parking facilities could be constructed.

h. (U) The 161st Assault Helicopter Company arrived 18 April to assume the general aviation support of the Task Force and the 71st Assault Helicopter Company arrived as the direct aviation support of the 196th Inf. Bde.

i. (U) The medium support helicopter company arrived at Chu Lai on 21 April.

j. (U) When aviation units arrived in the Task Force TAOR, many problems involving the aviation unit's locations had to be resolved. **The insecure and unprepared area at Duc Pho prevented the 174th Assault Helicopter Company from basing all their aircraft at this position and prevented their direct support maintenance detachment from moving with them. Due to a late change in plans when USMC aviation units were not able to vacate the Chu Lai area, the home base operating room of the 161st and 71st Assault Helicopter Companies was restricted.**

AVDF-CG Task Force Oregon 6 August 1967
SUBJECT: Operational Report for Quarterly Period Ending 30 April 1967. (RCS-CSFOR-65 (U)

TASK FORCE OREGON ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE

Task Force Troops

HHC, Task Force Oregon (Prov)
Troop B, 1st Squadron, 9th Cavalry (Air)
Co C, 2d Bn, 34th Armor
2d Squadron, 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment
148th Military Police Platoon
HHD, 509th Signal Bn
Co C, 459th Signal Bn (Cmd Op)
Co A, 36th Signal Bn (Spt Op)
Platoon (+), 167th Radio Relay Co
39th Engineer Bn (D) (-)
3d Military History Detachment
HHC, 14th Aviation Bn
174th Aviation Co (AML)
161st Aviation Co (AML)
178th Aviation Co (AML)
Task Force Oregon Military Intelligence Det (Prov)
Task Force Oregon Radio Research Co (Prov)

AVDF-HL 10 May 1970
SUBJECT: Operational Report -- Lessons Learned, Americal Division, Period Ending 31 January 1970, (RCS-CSFOR-65) (R2) (U)

b. **Quang Ngai**

(1) The relatively low level of activity which prevailed throughout the end of October continued into the beginning of November. On 2 Nov, C/4-3 Inf, vic BS782241, found and destroyed and enemy base camp consisting of 25 structures and 30 fighting positions; miscellaneous military equipment was evacuated from the area. On 4 Nov, C/3-1 Inf, vic BS46?749, received 5 60mm mortar rounds from an unidentified UNSEF. On 4 Nov 3-4 ARVN, vic BS7544617, engaged a platoon size force resulting in 7 ? KIA, 10 VC CIA, and 3 IWC. On 5 Nov, B/3-1 Inf, vic BS539732, received 6 75mm RR rounds from an unidentified UnSEF. On 5 Nov, two 140mm rockets were directed against Quang Ngai City; one impacted vic BS645729 (Quang Ngai MACV Compound) and the other landed vic BS645736. This was followed by a small scale sapper attack against the city with negative assessment of enemy casualties. On 6 Nov, B/3-1 Inf, vic BS520724, received a 122mm rocket from an unidentified UNSEF. On 6 Nov, A/4-21 Inf, vic BS 866369, received 10 60mm mortar rounds from an unidentified UNSEF. On 6 Nov, one aircraft was forced to land due to light SA 30 cal fire, but was later recovered. On 7 Nov, 2-6 ARVN, vic BS722835, engaged an unidentified UNSEF resulting in 10 VC KIA and 4 IWC. Later on that day, 3-6 ARVN, vic BS713885, engaged an estimated company size VC force resulting in 14 VC KIA and 1 CSWC. On 9 Nov, CPA 1-4-2, vic BS786867, found what appeared to be a stripped Chinese junk, 40-50 feet long. The boat was destroyed after a complete investigation. On 12 Nov. one aircraft received 30 cal AW fire and was forced to land vic BS543953 but was later recovered. On 13 Nov, 174th Avn, vic BS688588, engaged and unidentified UNSEF resulting in 9 VC KIA and 2 IWC. On 13 Nov, 404 ARVN, vic BS688538, engaged an unidentified UNSEF resulting in 23 VC KIA, 4 CSWC, 40 unknown type RR rounds, 12 bangalore torpedoes, 10 Chi Com H/Grens and 20 60mm mortars CIA. On 13 Nov, 3-4 ARVN, vic BS665579, engaged an estimated company size VC force, believed to be elements of the 38th LF Bn, resulting in 17 VC KIA and 3 IWC. On 14 Nov, 176th Avn vic BS720800 engaged 1 BC, vic BS733894, engaged 2 VC, vic BS723896 engaged 1 VC, and vic BS725905 engaged 8 VC. These contacts resulted in 12 VC KIA. On 14 Nov D4-3 Inf, vic BS610477, found and destroyed 15 structures, 450 gallons of oil and miscellaneous equipment. On 14 Nov, 4-4 ARVN, vic BS689590, engaged an unidentified UNSEF resulting in 7 VC KIA, 2 IWC and 1 CSWC. On 15 Nov, 174th Avn (CC), vic BS473717, received intense 30 cal fire causing the aircraft to crash; the aircraft was not recoverable. On 16 Nov, Minh Long USSF/CIDG Forces, vic BS560605, received SA/AW fire and 10 82mm mortar rounds; fire was returned resulting in 10 VC KIA and 3 VC WIA. On 16 Nov, CIDG Forces, vic BS322676, received SA fire and an unknown number of RPG rounds from an unidentified UNSEF. Results of the contact were 40 VC KIA, 3 VC CIA and 13 bunkers destroyed. On 17 Nov, 1-4 ARVN, vic BS373345, engaged an UNSEF resulting in 7 VC KiA, 1 VC CIA, and 3 IWC. On 18 Nov, 174th Avn supported Ha Thanh USSF/CIDG Forces, vic BS325667, resulting in 10 VC KiA and 3 bunkers destroyed. On 19 Nov, D/1-20 Inf, vic BS795458, found and evacuated 15 tons of rice. On the same day, A/4-3 Inf, vic BS585413, received 10 82mm mortar rounds from an unidentified UNSEF. On 23 Nov, R/**1-52** Inf, vic BS542865, engaged 8 VC resulting in 6 VC KiA and 2 VC CIA evacuated to LZ Bayonet. On 25 Nov, C/4-21 Inf vic BS875295, engaged an estimated NVA platoon size force, resulting in 8 NVA KIA, 1 IW, 5 ChiCom H/Gren, 4 M-26 H/Gren medical supplies, 1 wallet, 6 lbs of documents, 30 lbs of rice and miscellaneous military equipment CIA, evacuated. On 30 Nov, vic BS5186, D/1-1 Cav, four separate incidents, accounted for 10 VC/NVA KIA.

(2) From the beginning of November, numerous reports indicated that part or all of the 2d MF Regt would redeploy to Binh Dinh (P). During early November, the 2d MF Regiment operated in eastern Bat To (D) and southern Duc Pho (D). As the month progressed, the 95th Bn moved to the Quang Ngai-Binh Dinh (P) border. By the end of the month, the regimental

(Continued 1)

headquarters and the other two battalions followed suit. PW's and documents captured by the 173d Abn Bde in Binh Dinh (P) verified the fact that the 2d Regiment was to operate in Binh Dinh (P). Reports were that the 2d Regiment was to aid Binh Dinh (P) LF units in an anti-pacification campaign. The 22d NVA Regiment HQ remained fairly static in the southern part of Minh Long (D). Two battalions of the 22d Regt operated in old Base Area 123, while one battalion operated in northern Ba To (D). During November, the 21st Regt, 2d NVA Div, operated vic BS4080. The 2d NVA Sapper Bn operated west of LZ San Juan Hill and the 107th NVA Wpns Bn remained in the "Horseshoe" area vic BS4871. LF Bn's and LF Co's remained in their normal AO's during the month.

(3) A total of 178 VC/NVA KIA were accounted for by Americal Forces during the month. November was characterized by a considerable decrease in mortar rounds fired by the enemy. A total of 40 mortar rounds and 3 rockets were directed against US LZ's, NDP's and installations.

(4) During the month of December there was a definite increase in activity in the Americal AO. On 1 Dec, vic BS720820, 4-6 ARVN received an unknown number of 60mm mortar rounds, RPG rounds, H/Gren and AW/SA fire followed by a ground attack by an unidentified UNSEF. The contact resulted in 4 VC KIA. On the same day, A/4-3 Inf, vic BS718377, found and destroyed 10 bunkers, 2 structures and 47 rolls of paper. On 2 Dec, vic BS4882, B/1-1 Cav accounted for 7 VC/NVA KIA in 4 separate contacts and C/1-20 Inf, vic BS794489, found and destroyed 12 bunkers. Also on 2 Dec, LRRP Team Illinois, vic BS425800, found an old enemy base camp with 10-15 bunkers connected by a tunnel system. On 5 Dec, 3-6 ARVN, vic BS487814, received an unknown number of RPG rounds, M-79 rounds and SA fire from an unidentified UNSEF. The contact resulted in 9 VC KIA and 1 VC WIA CIA. On 5 Dec, 404 ARVN, vic BS692538, engaged an estimated VC squad size force resulting in 5 VC KIA and 3 IWC. Also on 5 Dec, vic BS 459683, B/3-1 Inf found and destroyed 10 bunkers. An enemy base camp with 4 structures, 6 bunkers and 6 tunnels was found and destroyed by B/3-1 Inf, vic BS45090, on 6 Dec. In two contacts on 6 Dec, 4-4 ARVN, vic BS738698, accounted for 5 VC KIA, 6 VC, 2 IW and 1 PRC-25 CIA. On 7 Dec, B/3-1 Inf, vic BS464697, engaged 8 VC resulting in 6 VC KIA. On 8 Dec, B/4-3 Inf, vic BS654363, found and destroyed a base area with 22 bunkers, 8 spider holes, 1 82mm mortar round and 1 RPG round. On 11 Dec, R/**1-52** Inf, vic BS432768, engaged 4 NVA resulting in 4 NVA KIA, while C/3-1 Inf, vic BS608568, found and destroyed an enemy base areas consisting of 30 sleeping positions and 3 spider holes. The last day of the week, 13 Dec, D/1-1 Cav Blues, vic BS738776, received SA fire from an unidentified. UNSEF. Fire was returned an resulted in 35 NVA KIA. C/1-1 Cav reinforced D/1-1 Cav, vic BS733778 to engage an estimated enemy size force which resulted in 18 NVA KIA and 4 IWC. A/1-20 Inf, vic BS745485, engaged 10 VC in a bunker resulting in 5 VC KIA, 5 VC CIA and 3 IWC. On 19 Dec, 1-4 ARVN, vic BS763573, engaged an UNSEF resulting in 4 VC KIA and 1 IWC. On 20 Dec there were several incidents; the most significant are as follows: C/4-3 Inf, vic BS637440, found 4 graves with 1 VC KBA in each, dead less than 24 hours; C/3-1 Inf, vic BS508728, found and destroyed 7 structures and 3 ChiCom hand grenades. They also found and destroyed 7 structures and 3 ChiCom hand grenades. They also found and evacuated 55 ChiCom hand grenades. They also found and evacuated 55 ChiCom hand grenades, 200 blasting caps, 75 ft of fuse, 30 lbs of explosives, documents
and a 20 lb homemade bomb. C/5-46 Inf, vic BS777832, found and destroyed 21 tunnels; C/5/46 Inf, vic BS778830, found and destroyed 12 bunkers, structures and 8 concussion grenades. 4-4 ARVN, vic BS748684, engaged an estimated squad size VC force resulting in 3 VC KIA, 6 VC, 3 IW, and 25 homemade had grenades CIA. Also on 20 Dec, LRRP Teams Illinois and Oklahoma

(Continued 2)

were inserted vic BS402787. At 1440H, vic BS408792, the team observed 4 VC/NVA moving east. At 201540H the teams were located vic BS406792 and observed 29 VC/NVA moving west and 14 VC/NVA moving ?a?, w3 with packs and weapons. At 201635H, the teams were located at BS408792 and observed 49 VC/NVA moving east, 18 of whom had packs and weapons. At 201650H, vic B/**1-52** Inf was also inserted vic BS410794. The LRRP teams and D/1-1 Cav Blues were under operational control of B/**1-52** Inf and engaged an UNSEF resulting in 12 ? NVA KIA, 4 AK-47's, 1 7.62mm pistol (type 54), 10 60mm mortar rounds, 15 ChiCom hand grenades and 2 ChiCom field phones CIA. On 21 Dec, CAP 1-4-4, vic BS752824, engaged 29 VC in 6 boats resulting in 3 VC KIA and 26 VC CIA (3 WIA). On 26 Dec, B/4-3 Inf, vic BS638441, engaged 2 NVA in a bunker and found 5 NVA in graves, dead less than 24 hours, resulting in 7 NVA KIA. On 28 Dec, vic BS429779, 3-6 ARVN received SA fire from an UNSEF. The contact resulted in 22 NVA KIA, 2 CSWC and 1 IWC. The unit in contact was believed to be the 406th LF Sapper Bn. On the same day, RF companies 182 and 183, vic BS768531, received 15 82mm mortar rounds from an unidentified UNSEF. Also on 28 Dec, vic BS660412, TMF 82 detected approximately 200 enemy moving NW-SE in the early morning. It was believed that they were elements of the 22d NVA Regt moving to BA124. On 29 Dec, 404 ARVN, vic BS742676, engaged an estimated VC squad size force resulting in 5 VC KIA. On the same day, D/4-3 Inf, vic BS656340, engaged 5 NVA resulting in 3 NVA KIA and 1 IWC. D/5-46 Inf, vic BS688707, on 30 Dec, found 6 VC dead over 24 hours and destroyed 6 bunkers. R/3-1 Inf, vic BS449730, on 30 Dec, engaged 4 VC resulting in 2 VVC KIA, 1 IW, 3 packs, 50 blasting caps 40 firing devices, 20 priming caps, 1 pair of field glasses, 1 ChiCom H/gren and documents CIA. The 4-6 ARVN vic BS689919, on 30 Dec, received an unknown number of RPG rounds, mortar rounds and AW fire from an unidentified UNSEF. This contact resulted in 3 VC KIA and 1 IWC. On the last day of the month, 31 Dec, 4-6 ARVN, vic BS7019044, found 21 VC KBSAF and artillery fire, 5 IW and 1 CSW.

AVDF-HL 10 May 1970

SUBJECT: Operational Report -- Lessons Learned, Americal Division, Period Ending 31 January 1970, (RCS-CSFOR-65) (R2) (U)

(4) **Operation Iron Mountain** continued throughout the reporting period, concentrating on the security of major lines of communication and supply as well as combat operations to increase the level of security of the pacification operations being conducted along the coast. Enemy activity continued to be light throughout the reporting period as the 11th Infantry Brigade conducted its operations with the 4th ARVN Regiment. Numerous casualty-producing booby trap and mining incidents were reported within the Iron Mountain area of operation. On 13 November in the vicinity of BS688588 the **174th Aviation Company,** flying in support of the 11th Infantry Brigade, engaged an unknown size VC force at 1050 hours, killing 89 VC and capturing two individual weapons. Two days later a command and control helicopter from the 3-1st Infantry Battalion received a heavy volume of automatic weapons fire while taking off from a landing zone on a resupply mission and crashed killing 5 US personnel. On 29 November, at 1015 hours C/4-21st Infantry, engaged an estimated NVA platoon in an hour long fight, resulting in eight NVA dead and one individual weapon captured. There were no US casualties. A large weapons cache was found by C/3-1st Infantry, at 0930 hours on the 1st of December in the vicinity of BS451747. The cache consisted of 35 individual weapons and one crew served weapon. A week later, B/3-1st Infantry, engaged an estimated squad size VC force in the vicinity of BS464697 at 1830 hours. It was a brief battle which resulted in 6 VC killed and one individual weapon captured. At 1543 hours on 13 December, **A/1-20th Infantry**, engaged an unknown size VC force in the vicinity of BS746443, killing 5 VC and capturing 3 individual weapons, while only one US was wounded. B Company, 123d Aviation Battalion, while flying in support of the 11th Infantry Brigade on 26 December, engaged 10 NVA in the vicinity of BS753257, killing 5 NVA soldiers. One NVA and 2 individual weapons were captured. The most significant contact within the Iron Mountain area of operation occurred on the evening of the 3rd of January while B/4-3d Infantry was in a night defensive posture securing Hill 285 (BS829285). B Company received a ground attack from an estimated NVA Company and engaged them for several hours before the attack successfully repelled. There were 7 US killed and 11 US wounded. Sweeps of the area the following morning yielded 29 dead NVA, 12 individual weapons and one crew-served weapon. On 16 January a long-range reconnaissance patrol engaged 5 NVA at 1630 hours in the vicinity of BS514432 and killed 5. On the last day of the reporting period D/4-21st Infantry, at 0110 hours, while in a night defensive position with GVN forces, received a ground attack from an estimated 3 VC sapper squads. The attack, which lasted an hour was successfully repelled and 7 VC killed plus 2 individual and 1 crew-served weapon captured. Results of operations in the Iron Mountain area of operation for the reporting period are as follows:

FRND	ENEMY
26 US KIA	236 VC KIA
165 US WIA(E)	196 NVA KIA
24 US WIA(M)	453 DET
	18 PW/VC
	12 PW/NVA
	3 CH/VC
	0 CH/NVA
	277 CIV DEF
	106 IN CIV
	177 IWC
	5 CSWC

b. Quang Ngai

(1) A relatively low level of activity dominated the first two weeks of February. On 1 Feb, B/1-52 Inf, working with PF's vic BS 590817, Dai Loc (V), received 30 60/82mm mortar rounds, 15 RPG rounds, 80 M-79 rounds and SA/AW fire from an UNSEF. This barrage was followed by a sapper attack and resulted in 12 NVA KIA, 2 NVA CIA, 4 CSWC and 90 ChiCom H/Grens and miscellaneous military equipment CIA. Information obtained from the PW's identified the attacking unit as the 95th LF Sapper Co. At the same time as the attack on Dai Loc, A/**1**-52 Inf, LZ Stinson, received 50 mixed 60/82mm mortar rounds from an unidentified UNSEF with NCD. CAP Team 1-3-4, Son Tra (2) (H), vic BT621014, received 6 60mm mortar rounds and an unknown number of H/Grens and satchel charges from an unidentified UNSEF. PF Platoon 89, vic BS 685658, received 15 60/82mm mortar rounds from an UNSEF. 1-4 ARVN, vic BS 731528, received 15 82mm mortar rounds, AW/SA fire and a sapper attack from an unidentified UNSEF. This contact resulted in 12 VC KIA, 2 CSW, 4 IW, 3 bangalore torpedoes and 100 ChiCom H/Grens CIA. 4-4 ARVN, vic BS 603480, engaged an estimated squad of VC resulting in 5 VC KIA. In a later contact, R-4 ARVN, vic BS 694515, also engaged an estimated squad of VC resulting in 7 VC KIA, 2 IW and 10 RPG rounds captured. On 2 Feb, D/1-14th Arty on OP #1 received 10 82mm mortar rounds and SA fire from an UNSEF. In a contact on 3 Feb, vic BS 734629, 744557, 741573, 3-4 ARVN engaged an estimated platoon of VC. This contact cost the enemy 9 VC KIA, 6 VC CIA, 3 IW and documents captured. The only significant contact for Americal Forces on this day occurred when C/4-3 Inf, vic BS698379, engaged 10 NVA, killing 4. D/1-14th Arty on 4 Feb, vic BS 466768, engaged 10 NVA, killing 4. D/1-14th Arty on 4 Feb, vic BS 466768, engaged an IOS sighting, resulting in 6 VC KBA. A/3-1 Inf on 7 Feb, in a sweep operation, vic BS 510715, found a base camp consisting of 6 structures. Among the miscellaneous military equipment was an NVA flag with an unidentified designation embroidered upon it. The only significant AA activity of the week occurred on 2 Feb, vic BS 5113713, when a UH-1C received moderate .30 cal fire forcing the aircraft to land.

(2) In light contact with the enemy on 8 Feb, Americal Forces in the Iron Mountain AO accounted for 23 VC/NVA KIA. D/3-1 Inf, vic BS 513752, accounted for 7 VC KIA, R/4-21, vic BS 863342, 5 VC KIA, and 123d Avn Bn, vic BS 616477, 5 VC KIA. B/4-21 Inf, vic BS 855310 and BS 848304, found and evacuated 2,500 lbs of rice. A/3-1 Inf, vic BS 515716, found and destroyed 1,000 lbs of rice. On 8 Feb, an F-4 received heavy SA fire causing the aircraft to crash, vic BS 368842; the det was not recoverable. In a period of four hours on 9 Feb, C/5-46 Inf, vic BS 771838, found and destroyed 20 structures, 20 bunkers, 18 tunnels, 1000 lbs of rice, 2000 lbs of potatoes and 3000 lbs of corn. On 11 Feb, in a series of small contacts in Nghia Hanh (D), vic BS 5565, 123d Avn Bn, accounted for a total of 19 VC/NVA KIA. On 12 Feb, D/3-1 Inf, vic BS551653, found and destroyed 12 structures and 12 bunkers. R/4-3 Inf, vic BS 653224, found and destroyed 12 structures and 12 bunkers. R/4-3, vic BS 653224, found and destroyed 2 structures, 12 bangalore torpedoes, 69 RPG rounds, 68 pistol flares and AK-47 ammunition. On 13 Feb, 1-6 ARVN, vic BS 719804, received an unknown number of RPG rounds and SA/AW fire from an estimated company size force. This contact resulted in 5 VC KIA. On 14 Feb, 1-6 ARVN, vic BS 725814, engaged the enemy; this time, there were 10 VC KIA and 3 IWC.

(3) In scattered contacts on 15 Feb, Americal Forces accounted for 23 VC/NVA KIA. D/1-14 Arty, vic BS 477771, engaged an IOS sighting of an UNSEF, resulting in 11 VC KBA. On 16 Feb, at 0300H, An Chau (H), vic BS 605935, received satchel charges from an estimated 40 VC. The contact resulted in 4 VC KIA and 2 RPG rounds CIA. At 1000H, 4-6 ARVN, vic BS 535781, engaged an UNSEF accounting for 10 VC KIA. On 18 Feb, B/1-82 Arty engaged an IOS sighting

(Continued 1)

of an UNSEF resulting in 13 VC KBA and 3 bunkers destroyed. Later that day D/6-11 Arty engaged an IOS sighting of 30 VC resulting in 21 VC KBA. On 20 Feb, in the Geneva Park AO, D/1-14 Arty, B/1-82 Arty, D/1-82 Arty, vic BS 550795 and BS 552791, engaged an IOS sighting of an UNSEF resulting in 29 VC KBA. At 2130H, OP #1, vic BS 517779, received 2 RPG rounds, 12 unknown type mortar rounds and SA fire from an UNSEF. On 21 Feb, B/1-20 Inf found and evacuated a cache of 30 bicycles buried under the floor of a structure, vic BS 754449.

(4) On 22 Feb, 4-4 ARVN engaged an UNSEF, vic BS664576 resulting in 9 VC KIA. On 23 Feb, F/8 Night Hawk received SA fire, vic BS431761 from and UNSEF. In the ensuing action, Nigh Hawk accounted for 17 VC KIA. On 24 Feb, 2-6 ARVN, vic BS 337789, found and destroyed a hospital complex of 19 structures. At the same location, they found 2.5 tons of rice, 100 lbs of salt, 100 pigs, 200 chickens, 100 bottles of penicillin and 100 KG of cotton bandages. On 25 Feb, B/1-52 Inf, vic BS 327816, received 7 60mm mortar rounds from an UNSEF with NCD. On 27 Feb, 4-6 ARVN, vic BS 323781, found 25 IWC, 4 CSWC, and 1000 rounds of mixed RPG, 82mm mortar and 57mm RR ammunition. Later on that same day 4-6 ARVN, vic BS328775, received 7 60mm mortar rounds from an UNSEF. On 28 Feb, D/1-1 Cav, vic BS 437736, engaged 8 NVA resulting in 7 NVA KIA. Later that day H/17 Cav, vic BS 502799 and D/4-21 Inf, vic BS 831327, each received two 105mm rounds used as lob bombs, each with NCD. A UH-1H at 900' received heavy AW cal .30 fire, sustaining 3 hits. The aircraft was forced to land, but was later recovered.

(5) The most significant changes in enemy disposition during the month were: The 21st NVA Regt HQ and the 60th Bn moved out of Base Area 128 to relocate in Northern Ba To (D). The 7th Bn, 22d NVA Regt left the Mo Duc/Duc Pho (D) border to relocate along the Song Ve just north of Base Area 123. The 9th Bn, 22d NVA Regt moved east into lower Base Area 124. The 403d NVA Sapper Bn (then the 2d NVA Sapper Bn) moved out of Base Area 124 to just northwest of it. The 120th LF Montgd Bn moved away from the area just northwest of Base Area 121 to relocate to the bottom of Base Area just northwest of Base Area 121 to relocate to the bottom of Base Area 120. The 406th LF Sapper Bn advanced west from the Son Tinh/Tra Bong/Sen Ha border lines approximately 12 kilometers. The 38th LF Bn continued to straddle the coast moving back and forth between LZ Snoopy and LZ Dragon. 95B LF Sapper Co moved from southwest of Binh Son (D) to the upper Son Tinh (D) area above LZ Clemson. C-212 LF Co made a noticeable move from six kilometers east of Base Area 128 near the Song Ve to approximately four kilometers northwest of Binh Dinh (PP. C-219 LF Co moved from eastern Ba To (D) to just north of LZ Bronco in Duc Pho (D). 506B LF Sapper Co preceded to move from the southeast corner of Base Area 121 to four kilometers southwest of Quang Ngai City. Americal forces accounted for a total of 345 VC/NVA KIA during the month. A total of 154 mortar rounds were fired at Americal installations and NDP's.

(6) The first two weeks of March were characterized by an increase in contacts and attacks by fire in Quang Ngai (P). On 2 Mar, D/4-3 Inf, vic BS 618496 and BS 620501, in two separate attacks by fire received 13 60mm mortar rounds from an unidentified UNSEF with NCD. On 4 Mar, D/1-14 Arty, vic BS 576758, engaged an IOS sighting of 46 NVA resulting in 22 NVA KBA. On 5 Mar, 2-4 ARVN accounted for a total of 17 VC KIA in three separate contacts vic BS774549, BS 773548 and BS764856. On the same day, Tu Nghia PF's at the La Ha Bridge, vic BS674678, received 20 RPG rounds and SA fire from an unidentified UNSEF. This contact resulted in 1 VC KIA and 10 RPG rounds CIA. On 6 Mar, C/4-3 Inf, vic BS 608476, received 7 82mm mortar rounds, 2 RPG rounds, H/Grens and SA fire from an UNSEF. Fire was returned resulting in 1 VC KIA. Quang Ngai City, vic BS 651733, received 2 140mm rockets on 6 Mar.

(Continued 2)

On 7 Mar, B/26 Engr, vic BS 702806, received 5 unknown type mortar rounds from an unidentified UNSEF resulting in NCD. On 7 Mar, Quang Ngai City received a 140 mm rocket from an unidentified UNSEF. On 8 Mar, 4-4 ARVN, while on operations north of Base Area 128, vic BS 408580, found an enemy base camp with 12 structures. The structures wee destroyed and 2200 lbs of rice, 1000 rounds of SA ammo and 3 RPG-2 rounds were evacuated. On 8 Mar, OP #1, vic BS 517779, received 4 60mm mortar rounds and SA fire from an unidentified UNSEF . The IOS at OP#1 sighted the suspected mortar position and D/1-14 Arty engaged the area resulting in 11 VC KBA. On 9 Mar, C/5-46 Inf, vic BS 681844, received 12 60mm mortar rounds from an UNSEF with NCD. On 10 Mar, Ha Thanh SF Camp received 4 82mm mortar rounds from an unidentified UNSEF. On 11 Mar, 3-6 ARVN, vic BS304561, engaged and killed 4 VC; 3 IW, 18 82mm mortar rounds, 500 rounds of SA ammo and 600 rounds of AW ammo were evacuated and 5400 lbs of rice was destroyed. On 11 Mar, D/4-3 Inf, vic BS 525513, received 15 60mm mortar rounds, 5 RPG rounds, and SA/AW fire from an unidentified UNSEF. Fire was returned resulting in 2 NVA KIA. On 12 Mar, D/1-14 Arty B/1-82 Arty, and D/6-11 Arty engaged an IOS sighting of an UNSEF vic BS 451762 resulting in 34 VC KBA. D/1-14 Arty later engaged two more IOS sightings, vic BS 471767 and BS 451762, accounting for 12 more KBA. On 14 Mar, D/3-1 Inf, vic BS 415404, found a hospital complex. Ten structures were destroyed and morphine, glucose, vitamin B-1 and 30 white uniforms were counted?. Three aircraft were forced to land during the second week of March. A UH-1H of the 71st Assault Helicopter Co crashed vic BS 468608 and was not recoverable. A UH-1H from the 68th Med, vic BS 625515, was forced to land but later recovered. A UH-1H from the 176th Assault Helicopter Co, vic BS 445695, was forced to land but later recovered.

(7) The third week in March witnessed a decrease in contacts while attacks by fire continued at the same level. On 14 Mar, PF #22, vic BS 669976, received 10 82mm mortar rounds from an unidentified UNSEF. On 15 Mar, Nui Dut Camneund, vic BS 656711, received 4 82mm mortar rounds from an unidentified UNSEF with NCD. On 16 Mar, Ha Thanh CIDG forces engaged an estimated VC company vic BS 300630 resulting in 4 VC KIA. B/**1-52** Inf, on 16 Mar, vic BS440774, found a bicycle repair shop containing 75 bicycle innertubes, 20 bicycle tire and 1000 yds of cloth, all of which was evacuated. On 17 Mar, D/**1-52** Inf, vic BS 511833, received 7 60mm mortar rounds and SA/AW fire from an unidentified UNSEF with NCD. On 18 Mar, RF #933. vic BS 692776, received 40 82mm mortar rounds and SA/AW fire from an estimated 200 VC. Fire was returned resulting in 8 VC KIA. That same day, C/5-46 Inf, vic BS 699806, received 12 RPG rounds, SA fire and M-79 fire from an estimated 10-15 VC. During the week, the combined operation near Base Area 128 resulted in the destruction of the following: a medical aide station vic BS 514388; and enemy way station with 20 structures vic BS338525; a VC/NVA production camp with 6 houses vic BS323514; and an enemy base camp with 28 structures vic BS 367417.

(8) In the middle of March, the volume of reports concerning a high point of Activity between 30 Mar and 1 Apr began to increase. Enemy activity for the last part of March decreased into the expected lull before a high point. On 24 Mar, 3-4 ARVN, vic BS 708471 and BS 703571, engaged an estimated squad size VC force resulting in 10 VC KIA. Several aircraft were forced to land during this period. On 22 Mar and OH-6A from D/1-1 Cav, vic BS479786, received light SA cal .30 fire; the OH-6A crashed and was later recovered. On 25 Mar, a UH-1H of the 176th Avn Co, vic BS 519869, received moderate AW cal .30 fire; the aircraft landed, was quickly repaired and took off again. On 29 Mar, a UH-1H from the 174th Avn Co received light SA cal .30 fire vic BS 518858. The aircraft was forced to land but later recovered.

(Continued 3)

AVDF-HL 10 May 1970

SUBJECT: Operational Report -- Lessons Learned, Americal Division, Period Ending 30 April 1970, (RCS-CSFOR-65) (R2) (U)

(9) During the month of March, the 3d NVA Div and its support battalions remained in Binh Dinh (PP. The 222d Regt remained in southern Ba To (D) along the Quang Ngai (P) - Bin Dinh (P) border. The 21st NVA Regt HQ and the 60th Bn, 21st NVA Regt operated east of Base Area 128, along the Minh Long/Ba To (D) border. The 70th Bn, 21st NVA Regt operated in the Song Ve Valley and the 80th Bn, 21st NVA Regt operated south of Base Area 121 in northern Minh Long (D) and western Nghia Hanh (D). The 403d NVA Sapper Bn, MR-5 operated west of Base Area 134. The 107th NVA Hvy Wpns Bn operated in its normal AO throughout the month. The 120th LF Montagnard Bn remained out of contact west of the "Horseshoe" area. The 406th LF Sapper Bn operated vic BS3280 in the beginning of the month but moved east to vic BS 4479 due to an ARVN operation west of Base Areas 120. The 38th LF Bn operated in its normal AO; it is thought that the 38th Bn has broken down temporarily into company size units to avoid contact with friendly forces. The 48th LF Bn remained west of the Batangan Peninsula during the month. The 81st LF Co was located near the southeast corner of Base Area 121 until the middle of March. At that time, the 81st LF Co moved to a location approximately 3 km east of OP#1/ All other LF units remained in their normal AO's.

(10) There was a PW from the Sapper Section of MR-5 captured near the end of March. His mission was to train village guerrillas in sapper tactics. This is in keeping with the policies put forth in COSVN Resolution #14, which directed a strengthening of the guerrilla movement. A returnee who rallied on 20 Mar 70, was the PO of the 3d Co, 403d NVA Sapper Bn, MR-5. His statements concerning the trading of blankets and uniforms for food are further proof of the achievements of the rice denial program.

(11) During the month of March, Americal Forces accounted for 390 VC/NVA KIA. There were 99 60/82mm mortar rounds directed against Americal installations and NDP's.

(12) The month of April was begun with a marked increase in enemy activity. On the morning of 1 April, the enemy staged a considerable number of attacks throughout Quang Ngai (P). LZ Bronco, vic BS 812383, received an unknown number of RPG rounds, ChiCom H/Gren and satchel charges from an UNSEF. PF Platoon #83. vic BS834346. received 5 60mm mortar rounds from an UNSEF with NCD. PF Platoon #183, vic BS 7764115, received 5 60mm mortar rounds from an UNSEF. 2d ARVN Division Headquarters, vic BS 651729, received 10 82mm mortar rounds from an UNSEF. 174th Avn engaged an UNSEF vic BS 690720, resulting in 15 VC KIA and 2 IWC. D/1-14 Arty at OP#1, vic BS5177779, received 6-7 unknown size and type mortar rounds and SA fire from an UNSEF. RF Platoon #130, vic BS 645605, engaged an UNSEF resulting in 10 VC KIA. A/3-1 Inf on LZ 411, vic BS 539732, received 11 82mm mortar rounds from an UNSEF. On 2 April, B/5-46 Inf on FSB Gator, vic BS 568961, received 150-200 rounds SA fire and 7-8 RPG rounds from an UNSEF. 1-4 ARVN, vic BS 677764, engaged an UNSEF resulting in 7 VC KIA. 37 RF Group, vic BS 670710, swept an area of previous contact and air strikes. The sweep found 20 VC KIA. On 3 April, 17th RF Group and 1-4 ARVN, vic BS 601706, engaged an UNSEF resulting in 18 VC KIA and on 4 April, 4/4 ARVN, vic BS 750685, engaged an UNSEF resulting in 6 VC KIA.

(13) The week of 5 April commenced with CAP 1-4-4, vic BS765819, receiving 15 60mm mortar rounds from an UNSEF with NCD. 404 ARVN, vic BS 750687, engaged an UNSEF resulting in 6 NVA KIA and 5 IWC. Also 404 ARVN in two separate engagements with UNSEF's vic BS 728815 and vic BS 728825 accounted for 16 NVA KIA. On 7 April, Minh Long CIDG, vic BS 591458, found 15 VC KBA dead less than 24 hours which were credited to C/3-18 Arty. On 8 April D/6-11 Arty engaged 3 IOS sightings vic BS 485765, BS 457764 and BS 515720 resulting in a total of 13 VC/NVA KBA. On 9 April, in support of CAP 1-4-6, A/1-82 Arty, vic BS 719779, engaged 45 VC resulting in 12 VC KBA. OP #1,

(Continued 4)

vic BS517779, on 10 April, received 12 82mm mortar rounds from an UNSEF with no casualties or damage. On 11 April 4-6 ARVN, vic BS 755852, engaged an UNSEF resulting in 7 VC KIA.

(14) The week of 13 April began with C/1-20 Inf, vic BS 748468 and vic BS 750474, finding and evacuating 20,000 lbs of rice. On 15 April, PF Platoon #40 vic BS 676775, received 10-15 60mm mortar rounds from an UNSEF. FSB Snoopy vic BS 705613, received 11 rounds of 81mm mortar fire with light damage to a 5 ton truck. On 16 April R/6 ARVN, vic BS 346616, engaged 9 VC resulting in 9 VC KIA. On 19 April, R/6th ARVN, vic BS 231695, found and evacuated 117 IWC, and found and destroyed on ten (est) of RPG rounds, 50 122mm rocket rounds, 11 82mm mortar rounds, 10 60mm mortar rounds and 30 boxes of TNT. The 174th Avn Bn, vic BS 556635, engaged an estimated NVA Co resulting in 22 NVA KIA on 20 April. On 21 April, R/1-20 Inf and the Mo Duc PRU, vic BS 757554, engaged an UNSEF resulting in 15 VC KIA. On 22 April, 4-4 ARVN, vic BS 686467, found and evacuated 9,000 lbs of rice. D/4-3 Inf, vic BS 630428, found and evacuated 20,000 lbs of salt. On 23 April D/3-1 Inf, vic BS5576994, found NVA KBA more than 24 hours (?), and on 24 April, B/123d Avn Bn engaged an UNSEF, vic BS 638544, resulting in 9 VC KIA. On 26 April, 4-4 ARVN, vic BS 727827, engaged 5 VC resulting in 5 VC KIA, 2 IWC and 10 ChiCom Hand grenades CIA and evacuated. The month ended with two mortar incidents. On 29 Apr C/3-1 Inf on Fire Support Base 411, vic BS 539732 received 3 82mm mortar rounds from an unidentified UNSEF with NCD. On 30 April, C/3-1 Inf on Fire Support Base 411 received 3 82mm mortar rounds from an unidentified UNSEF again with NCD.

(15) Enemy movement was minimal during the month of April. Several units moved closer to Quang Ngai City in the first part of the month placing emphasis on it as an attack target. The local force units such as C-75 LF Co, 605A LF Sapper Co, 506B LF Sapper Co and C-18 LF Co were scheduled to carry the brunt of the attacks. The 107th NVA Hvy Wpns Bn and the 80th Bn, 21st NVA Regt were held in reserve to provide support for the LF units if needed. The attacks were unsuccessful and the NVA units had nothing to exploit. The LF units moved back to their normal AO's possibly to reorganize. Other changes in disposition were: the 403d NVA Sapper Bn moved closer to Duc Pho (D) possibly to assist in gathering rice during harvest which is a predominant activity during the month of April. The 70th Bn, 21st NVA Regt moved to the east side of the Song Ve and is presumed to be engaged in resupply activities. The 48th LF Bn moved out of its normal AO on the southeastern side of the Batangan Peninsula to avoid contacts with Americal and ARVN units operating in the area. Later in the month this unit began returning elements back to its normal AO. The 38th LF Bn moved westward this month and relocated on the other side of the Song Ve. After C-75 LF Co reorganized, it again moved and relocated in close proximity to the 38th Bn. All other units operating in Quang Ngai (P) remained in their normal AO. Order of Battle dropped the 22nd NVA Regt from its holdings in April as they are reported to be operating in Binh Dinh (P). Numerous PW and document reports on the 22nd NVA Regt, 3d NVA Division stated that the 22nd Regt was to be disbanded completely. A Returnee from the HQ Co of the 22d Regt who rallied on 26 April stated that his unit was disbanded on 22 Feb 70 and all personnel were assigned to the battalions. The high ranking officers went to 3d Div HQ. There are reports that elements of the 22d NVA Regt are still operating in Quang Ngai (P) and especially in Duc Pho (D) in an attempt to gather rice. A guerrilla PW from Pho Trung (V), Duc Pho (D) stated he had heard that the 83d Co was located four to five hours walk west of his village. Pho Trung (V) is located vic BS 8885305. The 83d Co has been reported as an AKA for the 3d Co, 8th Bn, 22nd NVA Regt. In light of this report is considered that the 8th Bn has elements gathering rice in Quang Ngai (P).

(16) During the month of April, Americal Forces accounted for 364 VC/NVA KIA. There were 80 60/82mm mortar rounds fired at US and ARVN installations.

b. Quang Ngai (P)

(1) Enemy activity in Quang Ngai (P), while following basically the same pattern as that in Quang Tin (P), never reached the height nor intensity that activity did in Quang Tin (P). Enemy activity was somewhat delayed by Allied exploitation of the CO, 23d Sapper Co, 21st NVA Regt, and the APO 70th Bn 21st NVA Regt. Their information concerning original and alternate attack plans of the 21st Regt against Nghia Hanh (D) HQ were instrumental to the Allied pre-emptive operations in this area. The light to moderate contact which existed throughout the latter part of April continued into the beginning of May, but with an increase in attacks by fire.

(2) On 4 May, C/5-46 Inf, vic BS 506976, found and evacuated 43 122mm rockets. On the same day R & D/4-21 Inf, vic BS 8431, found and evacuated 5000 lbs. of rice. 1/4 ARVN, vic BS662554, round 18 VC killed by SAF, dead less than 24 hours. D/3-1 Inf, vic BS 539732, FSB 411, engaged an UNSEF resulting in 10 VC KIA. A company PO from the 2d Co, 406th LF Sapper Bn was captured on 7 May and identified elements of the 406th Sapper Bn as having taken part in the attack on FSB 411.

(3) On 8 May, CAP 1-3-2, vic BS 554892 received 25 RPG rounds 50 unknown type mortar rounds, satchel charges, SA fire and a ground attack from an estimated 100 VC. In the resulting contact, CAP 1-3-2 accounted for 27 VC KIA, CAP 1-3-2 vic BS 666978 received 50 60mm mortar rounds 18 82mm mortar rounds, 15 RPG rounds and a ground attack from an UNSEF. Also on 8 May, MACV Tm #13, vic BS730895, received 25-30 82mm mortar rounds, 12 RPG rounds and 1 57mm RR round from and UNSEF. 2/6 ARVN, vic BS 725895, received 30 rounds of 60mm mortar fire from an UnSEF. B/1-82 Arty, on LZ Snoopy received 20-30 rounds of unknown type mortar fire from an UNSEF. Ba To CIDG forces, vic BS 556355, engaged and UNSEF resulting in 15 VC KIA. On 12 May, A/4-21 Inf, vic BS 840298, found and evacuated 15,000 lbs of rice. 1/6 ARVN, vic BS 659919, received 20 rounds of 82mm mortar fire from an UNSEF. On 13 May, PF's at OP #1, vic BS 575780, received SA fire from an UNSEF. Fire was returned resulting in 13 VC KIA and 3 Hoi Chanh's. On the same day, vic BS 580650, 3/4 ARVN engaged an UNSEF resulting in 12 VC KIA. B/123d Avn, in support of 3/4 ARVN, vic BS595605, accounted for 20 NVA KIA. On 14 May, A/4-21 Inf, vic BS 8430, found and evacuated 28,000 lbs of rice. 3/4 ARVN, vic BS 597593, round 20 NVA KB SA fire.

(4) Enemy activity for the week of 17-23 May decreased and consisted mainly of sporadic attacks by fire. On 18 May, A/4-21 Inf, vic BS 847316, found and evacuated 5,000 lbs of rice. C/26 Engr, vic BS 7751, found and destroyed 20 bunkers. On 23 May, Ha Thanh CIDG forces, vic BS 471665, engaged and UNSEF resulting in 10 VC KIA.

(5) On 26 May, PF #35, vic BS 612990, received 20 60mm mortar rounds from an UNSEF. 3/4 ARVN, vic BS 635598, found and evacuated 7000 lbs of rice. D/1-20 Inf, vic BS 738572, found and evacuated 15,000 lbs rice. On 29 May, RF #489, vic BS 722943, engaged 21 VC resulting in 13 VC KIA and 8 VN detainees.

(6) During the month of May, Americal forces accounted for 257 VC/NVA KIA. The enemy expended 212 60/82mm mortar rounds and a total of 5 122mm rockets. In the beginning of the month, the 21st Regt HQ and the 60th Bn moved from Base Area 128 to the northern portion of the Song Ve Valley to take part in the attacks in the Nghia Hanh (D); the 70th Bn moved form [sic] the lower Song Ve while the 80th Bn withdrew to the southern Song Ve Valley. The 403d NVA Sapper Bn remained in Base Area 124. The 107th NVA Hvy Wpns Bn remained near Base Area 121 but with an element deployed with the 48th LF Bn, west of the Batangan Peninsula. The majority of the 406th LF Sapper Bn deployed in the Nui Da Ne area, with elements conducting operation as far east as FSB 411. The 38th LF Bn and the 120th LF Montagnard Bn, as well as all LF companies, operated in their normal AO's throughout the month.

(Continued 1)

(7) The month of June commenced with a sizeable increase in enemy initiated activity. The enemy utilized the dark phase of the moon to initiated several attacks throughout Quang Ngai (P) in the first few days. After this offensive period, enemy units withdrew and started a long period of reorganization and resupply. This logistical activity continued throughout the rest of the month and prevented any large scale offensive moves. This lack of enemy offensive activity indicated that the enemy logistical activity was hampered by Allied operations in major

(8) The week ending 6 June was characterized by an increase in enemy activity. The first week in June was the focal point of the entire month for enemy initiated activity. The week started slowly with a few contacts and caches being found. On 2 June, B/**1-52** Inf, vic BS 591836, received 4 rounds of 60mm mortar fire from an UnSEF. On the same day, 2-4 ARVN, vic BS 594468, found and evacuated 40 82mm mortar rounds and 4/4 ARVN, vic BS 578208, engaged an estimated NVA squad resulting in 11 NVA KIA, 3 IWC and 2 CSWC. Also on 2 June, **A/1-20 Inf**, vic BS 745457, found and evacuated 20,000 lbs of rice. On 4 June, the enemy launched several attacks throughout the province. A/ **1-52** Inf at LZ Stinson received 20 rounds of 82mm mortar fire from an UnSEF. RF #425, vic BS 642935, received 12 81mm mortar rounds from an UNSEF. Dan Quang Refugee Camp, vic BS 757818 with PF #71, received 10 rounds of 60mm mortar fire and a ground attack from an estimated VC Co. B/3-1 Inf, FSB 411, received 10-12 rounds of 82mm mortar fire from an UNSEF. D/3-1 Inf, vic BS234774, found and evacuated 6000 lbs of rice and 2000 lbs of potatoes. 174th Avn, in support of 1/4 ARVN, vic BS 635643, engaged an UNSEF resulting in 15 NVA KIA. B/6-11 Arty, in support of 2/4 ARVN, vic BS 610489, engaged an UNSEF resulting in 15 VC KIA. 5 June was the last day of numerous attacks. C/**1-52** Inf, vic BS 595837, received 80 rounds of 60mm/82mm mortar fire from an UNSEF. LZ Stinson received 15 rounds of 82mm mortar fire from an UNSEF, C/3-18 Arty, vic BS 605497, in support of 2/4 ARVN, engaged an UNSEF resulting in 15 VC KIA. The week ended when Binh Son (D) and 3d CACO HQ vic BS 6090, received 80 rounds of 82mm mortar fire, 7 RPG rounds and SA fire from an UNSEF. 174th Avn, vic BS 608588, engaged an UNSEF in support of 3/4 ARVN resulting in 15 NVA KIA.

(9) During the week of 7-13 June there was a considerable decrease in enemy activity. On 8 June, C/**1-52** Inf, vic BS 599833, received 15 82mm mortar rounds, 10 RPG rounds and SA fire from an UNSEF. R/4 ARVN, vic BS 355612, engaged an UNSEF resulting in 15 VC KIA on 11 June. In conjunction with this contact, a weapons and ammunition cache was found. Total items captured were; 4 122mm rockets, 100 B-40 and B-41 rounds, 120 82mm mortar rounds, 70 82mm RR rounds, 2 122mm rocket war heads, 20 AK-57's and 50 AK-47 magazines.

(10) The following week of 14-20 June again showed a decrease in enemy activity. Although the total number of KIA's (47) was average for a typical week, they were obtained mainly through numerous small contacts. The only two significant incidents were on 16 June. C/**1-52** Inf, vic BS 599832, received 14-20 rounds of 82mm mortar fire from an UNSEF with NCD and 3/4 ARVN, vic BS 619554 found and evacuated 6000 lbs of rice.

(11) From 21 June to the end of the month several caches were found and there were two significant attacks by fire. On 21 June, R/4 ARVN, vic BS 282645, found and evacuated 250 B40 rockets, 30 60mm mortar rds, 30 82mm mortar rounds and two cases of radio batteries. A/1-46 Inf, BS 691839, on 20 and 21 June found and evacuated a total of 12,635 lbs of rice. The first attack by fire occurred on 23 June when RF #238, vic BS 725895, received 32 82mm mortar rounds from an UnSEF. The second attack by fire came the following day when C/4-21 Inf, vic BS 885288, received 10 82mm mortar rounds from an UNSEF with NCD. On 26 June, B/1-6 Inf, vic BS 684824, found and evacuated a cache which consisted of 15,000 lbs of rice. The last cache of the month was found on 29 June when C/1-20 Inf, vic BS 746439, found and evacuated 10,000 lbs of rice.

(Continued 2)

(12) During the month movement was minimal for most units operating in Quang Ngai (P) with the exception being the 21st NVA Regt. The beginning of the month found the 21st Regt deployed both in the Song Ve Valley area of southern Nghia Hanh (D) and near the Regt's Base Area in BA 128. In the first week of June the regiment made a radical change in disposition. All elements congregated to the southwest of Nghia Hahn S/S for a planned attack of sizeable proportions. The attacks were not carried out to their full extent and after the attacks the entire Regt once again retired to their normal AO and engaged in logistical activities as previously stated. All other NVA and LF units stayed close proximity to their base areas for refitting and training throughout the entire month. Any movement was usually for two reasons. Small elements were engaged in logistical activity or, the unit was trying to avoid contact with allied forces.

(13) Americal Forces accounted for 222 VC/NVA KIA during June. The enemy expended a total of 264 rounds of 60/82mm mortar fire and 3 rounds of 122mm rocket fire. There 69 AA incidents during the reporting period with only 2 aircraft lost. On 1 June, a UH-1C from 174th Avn, Vic BS 331783, received heavy AW cal., 30 fire and cal .51 fire with an unknown number of hits. The aircraft crashed and was un-recoverable.

(14) The low level of activity that prevailed at the end of June carried over into the beginning of July. Enemy disposition was generally static with only minor moves to avoid Allied operations. The 21st NVA Regt HQ remained in Base area 128. The Regt had on Bn deployed in southern Minh Long (D) and on Bn deployed in northern Minh Long (D), the third Bn operated in the Song Ve valley. The 403d NVA Sapper Bn was unlocated in the southern portion of the province. the 107th NVA Hvy Wpns Bn operated just east of BA 121. The other LF BN's operated in their normal AO's throughout the month as did all LF companies. Agent reports indicated an upswing in enemy activity was planned to coincide with the dark phase of the moon, however, the enemy failed to utilize this period to conduct any significant offensive activities. The majority of ground activity involved non-Americal forces.

(15) On 2 July, 4/4 ARVN, vic BS 471640, accounted for 5 VC KIA and 10 structures destroyed. On 4 July, PF 163, vic BS 754747 along with PF #716 received fire from an UNSEF. Fire was returned resulting in 5 VC KIA and 1 IWC. On 5 July, PF #188, vic BS 883306, received 10 81mm mortar rounds from an UNSEF. 3/6 ARVN accounted for 6 NVA KIA and 2 IWC following an engagement of an UNSEF vic BS 282806. On 8 July, PF #33 vic BS 574972, received heavy SA fire and 7 RPG rounds from an estimated VC platoon. Fire was returned resulting in 5 VC KIA. OP #1 received 25 RPG rounds and SA fire from an UNSEF. A/3-1 Inf., found and evacuated a total of 8,800 lbs of rice vic BS 5077, BS 4977, BS 5075, BS 4975, and BS 4875.

(16) Activity for the third week of July remained at the same low level as the previous weeks. Most enemy activity consisted of small attacks by fire directed against RF?PF units. Most ground activity was friendly initiated. Reports were received that the enemy planned an increase in activity to coincide with the anniversary of the signing of the 1945 Geneva Accords on 20 July, however; this highpoint failed to materialize. On 12 July PF #240 in Binh Toy (V) vic BS 609952, received 30 60mm mortar rounds and heavy SA fire from an UNSEF. There were negative enemy casualties reported; sixty structures were destroyed. A/3-1 Inf, vic BS 525780, found and evacuated 10 tons of rice. On 14 July, Quang Ngai City received 2 140mm rockets; one impacted near the 2d ARVN Division Training area and the other hit near the 4th CAB Squad HQ. On 15 July, a Returnee led elements of 1/4 ARVN to a weapons cache, vic BS 506674, consisting of 90 IW's and 10 CSW's. The only significant incident on 20 July

(Continued 3)

was friendly initiated. Forces from Ha Thang CIDG/USSF Camp assaulted 2 NVA platoons, defending a base area vic BS 3461. The attack resulted in 18 NVA KIA.

(17) A third reported period of high enemy activity occurred during the end of July as the dark phase of the moon approached. On 22 July, PF #108, vic BS 604626, received 10 60mm mortar rounds. On 24 July, RF #963, vic BS 733894, received 30 60/82mm mortar rounds from an UNSEF. On 26 July, RF #934, vic BS 503755, engaged an UNSEF resulting in 5 VC KIA and 3 IWC. On 28 July, PF #160, vic BS 748668, received 10 rounds of 82mm mortar fire.

(18) During the month, there were 205 VC/NVA KIA by Americal Forces. There were 31 60/82mm mortar rounds directed against US installations and NDP's. This amount of mortar fire is indicative of the level of activity for the month.

AVDF-HL 10 August 1970
SUBJECT: Operational Report -- Lessons Learned, Americal Division, Period Ending 31 July 1970, (RCS-CSFOR-65) (R2) (U)

(4) Operation Iron Mountain continued throughout the reporting period, concentrating on security o major lines of communications and supply as well as combat operations to increase the level of security of the pacification operations being conducted along the coast. Enemy activity continued to be light throughout the reporting period as the 11th Infantry Brigade continued its operations with the 4th ARVN Regiment. On 7 May 11th Bde Avn eliminated a 9 man NVA force at BS640560. Late that evening the enemy made a determined attack on FSB 411. The defending forces from D/3-1 killed 10 VC sappers and detained 2 others while capturing 4 individual weapons and 2 crew served weapons. There were no US casualties. Following this action the enemy launched a mortar attack against FSB 411 early on 10 May. Total losses from D/3-1 Inf and D/6-11 Arty were 2 US WIA(E) and 4 US WIA(M). That evening 11th Bde Avn engaged and killed 5 VC at BS803485. The next day B/4-3 Inf suffered 8 US KIA and 8 US WIA(E) when they detonated a large unknown type of boobytrap at BS782344. D/3-1 Inf sustained two attacks that day losing 5 WIA(E) to small arms fire at BS601625 and 1 KIA and 4 WIA(E) to enemy mortars at BS617642. Americal Aviation fire power supported 3/4 ARVN as 123 Avn Bn gunships killed 11 NVA at BS595605 on 13 May. 174th Avn gunships killed 32 more NVA a day long action in the same vicinity. C/3-18 Arty caught an unknown sized enemy force at BS351514 on 16 May,
killing 13 VC before they could escape. On 26 May at BS646572 3/4 ARVN found 4 NVA killed by gunships from a previous engagement. Credit was given to 174th Avn Co. In an engagement at last light that evening **174th Avn Co** engaged and killed 4 more NVA at BS634584. Three days later **R/1-20 Inf** and 11th Bde Avn teamed up to kill 6 VC at BS813412. They also detained 1 individual and captured 1 individual weapons. There were no friendly casualties. On 4 June B/6-11 Arty killed 15 VC when they caught an unknown sized enemy force at BT241221. Gunships continued to punish the enemy as the 174th Avn Co killed 15 NVA in the vicinity of BS635643 while supporting ARVN ground troops on the afternoon of 4 June through the morning of 5 June. C/3-18 Arty accounted for 15 VC KBA at BS605497 on 5 June. 174th Avn Co struck again the next day killing 15 NVA at BS608588. On 8 June B/6-11 Arty wiped out a 5 man NVA patrol at BS745678. R/3-1 found a weapons cache at BS515705 two days later and captured 7 individual weapons. On 19 June A/4-3 Inf triggered 3 successful ambushes in the vicinity of BS740300 which resulted in 4 NVA KIA and 2 individual weapons captured. On 22 June B/4-21 Inf detonated an unknown type of boobytrap at BS852381. Results were 3 US KIA and 2 US WIA(E). Boobytraps continued to take their toll as D/4-21 Inf had 5 US WIA(E) at BS769313 on 26 June. On 2 July R/1-20 Inf suffered 6 US WIA(E) and 2 US WIA(M) when they detonated 3 boobytraps in quick succession in the vicinity of BS710569. On 6 July an E/1 Cav ACAV detonated an unknown type of mine at BS543774. US casualties were 1 KIA and 4 WIA(E). On 12 July D/1-20 Inf ambushed and killed 4 VC at BS746571, capturing 1 individual weapon. The next evening R/1-20 ambushed 5 or 6 VC at BS776379, killing 4 VC and capturing 2 individual weapons. On 17 July E/1 Cav detonated a 250lb bomb at BS513787. There were 4 US KIA and 11 US WIA(E). The next day D/4-3 Inf ambushed and unknown sized enemy force at BS623522 with 3 NVA KIA and 3 individual weapons captured. On 22 July E/1-20 Inf suffered 4 US WIA(E) and 1 US WIA(M) in a night engagement at BS750630. Known enemy losses were 1 VC KIA and 1 individual weapon captured. The next day 4-21 Inf Bn's Recon Platoon trapped and killed 5 VC at BS8466314. 1 individual weapon was captured. Three days later B/3-1 Inf engaged and killed 3 VC at BS510751, capturing 3 individual weapons. On 31 July B/4-21 Inf, vicinity BS908321, detonated a boobytrap consisting of 2 hand grenades resulting in 5 US WIA(E). Later, A/3-1 Inf, vicinity BS447743, was hit by a command detonated 155mm round

(Continued a)

resulting in 5 US WIA(E). **Results for Operation Iron Mountain** during the reporting period were:

FRND	ENEMY
38 KIA	535 KIA
240 WIA(E)	96 PROB KIA
45 WIA(M)	2 DET
	15 PW/VC
	4 PW/VC
	2 RTNEE/VC
	245 CIV DEF
	130 IN CIV
	150 IWC
	7 CSWC`

(2) Operation Geneva Park continued throughout the reporting period as the 198th Infantry Brigade and the 6th ARVN Regiment concentrated on the security of major lines of communication and the destruction of enemy forces attempting to attack Quang Ngai City or the Chu Lai Base complex. Activity was light as Division units searched the Rocket Pocket around Chu Lai, targeted against elements of the 78th Main Force Rocket Bn and the 48th Local Force Bn. Saturation patrolling, extensive nigh ambushes, preplanned air strikes, scheduled artillery fires and sensor devices were used to inhibit attempts to attack the populated areas. During the reporting period Geneva Park saw light contact in their AO until 5 Aug. On that day, C/**1-52** was hit by two claymores resulting in 2 US KIA and 9 US WIA (E) at BT 376072. In the morning of the next day, at BT 083328, H/17 Cav killed 3 VC and captured 3 individual weapons, in the same action detaining 18 individuals. Later that morning in the vicinity of BT 363066, C/**1-52** received small arms fire sustaining 8 US WIA (E). On the 7th of Aug B/**1-52** detonated a Bouncing Betty mine resulting in 1 US KIA and 5 US WIA (E) at BS 503863. Action remained light until the night of the 11th. F/8 Cav (Night Hawk) engaged an unknown size enemy force killing 26 of the enemy. in the early morning hours of 13 Aug, H/17 Cav killed 5 VC and captured 2 individual weapons at BS 579851. On 18 Aug LRRP Team Tennessee at BS 375??8 engaged an unknown size enemy force resulting in 4 NVA KIA and 3 US WIA (E). On 24 Aug !/**1-52** received and returned small arms fire resulting in 1 VC KIA, 1 detainee WIA (E), 2 individual weapons captured and 3 US WIA (E). Action in the AO was light until the last day of the month when H/17 Cav detonated a 50 lb mine resulting in 5 US WIA (E). Later that afternoon D/**1-52** detonated a 155 round sustaining 2 US KIA and 3 US WIA (E). On 6 Sep, at BT 307158, a D/1-1 LOH received small arms fire and returned fire killing 7 of the enemy. The LOH crashed as a result of hit received during the action causing the death of 1 US. Two days later FSB Stinson received an unknown amount of mortar fire and a ground attack resulting in 7 US WIA (E) and 5 US WIA (M). On 9 Sep a UH-1C from 176th Avn received small arms fire and crashed at BS 408804 killing the 4 US aboard. On 15 Sep F/8 Cav gunships killed 5 VC in the vicinity of BS515822. Five days later, C/**1-52** engaged an unknown size enemy force killing 6 at BS 533895. On the 26th of Sep C/**1-52** received small arms fire resulting in 6 VC KIA, 2 individual weapons captured and 1 US WIA (E). On 29 Sep F/8 Cav engaged an unknown size enemy force at BT 273117. Two of the enemy were killed and one detainee was wounded. F/8 Cav sustained 1 US WIA (E). On the 4th of Oct, C/5-46 engaged 7 VC killing 3 and capturing 3 individual weapons. Two days later, 123d Avn engaged an unknown size enemy force at BT 297133 killing 14 of the enemy. On 7 Oct, C/5-46 detonated an unknown type boobytrap resulting in 8 US WIA (E). That afternoon, A/**1-52** received small arms fire, mortar, RPG's and a ground attack, in which 2 VC were killed and 5 US wounded. On the 9th of Oct, G/75th (Rangers) engaged an unknown size enemy force resulting in 3 US WIA (M) and 2 NVA KIA at BS 456891. C/**1-52** with 174th Avn engaged a VC platoon on 12 Oct, resulting in 11 VC KIA, 2 crew served weapons captured and 1 US WIA. C/**1-52** on the next day, found a cave containing 5 VC KIA. They also found 3 hand grenades, 1 SKS and 14 RPG rounds at BS 569865. In the early afternoon of the same day C/**1-52** found and evacuated 1 60mm mortar tube with baseplate,

(Continued 1)

SUBJECT: Operational Report--Lessons Learned, 23d Infantry Division, Period Ending 31 October 1970, RCS CSFOR--65 (R2) (U)

1 baseplate for an 82mm mortar and 7 82mm mortar rounds. At 1940H that evening, B/**1-52** sustained 8 US KIA, 5 US WIA (E) and 1 ARVN KIA when an unknown type mine detonated in their NDP. On an Eagle Flight in the early afternoon of 19 Oct, R/**1-52** was inserted into an LZ at BS 494836, where they engaged two VC, killing one and detaining the other. On a later insertion, at 1430H, R/**1-52** engaged 6 VC killing four and capturing another with an individual weapon. Later the pilot of the AMC aircraft observed 30 VC with weapons and packs at BS 517873. Company D and R/**1-52** were inserted while 174th Avn gunships engaged the enemy force. The ground elements made contact with the enemy force killing 21 of the enemy, capturing 8 individual weapons and detaining 8 VN. There were no significant activities for the remainder of the reporting period. Results for Operation Geneva Park were:

US		ENEMY	
36	KIA	341	KIA (CONF)
216	WIA (E)	0	KIA (PROB)
24	WIA (M)	3	DET
0	MIA	8	PW/VC
		3	PW/NVA
		4	RTNEE/VC
		0	RTNEE/NVA
		105	CIV DEF
		87	IN CIV
		83	IWC
		7	CSWC

AVDF-HL 15 November 1970
SUBJECT: Operational Report--Lessons Learned, 23d Infantry Division, Period Ending 31 October 1970, RCS CSFOR--65 (R2) (U)

(4) Operation Iron Mountain continued throughout the reporting period as the 11th Infantry Brigade and the 4th ARVN Regiment concentrated on security of major lines of communication and supply as well as combat operations to increase the level of security of the pacification operations being conducted along the coast. Enemy activity ranged from light to heavy during the reporting period. Two major engagements with enemy forces occurred. One on 1 Sep near Nghia Hanh (BS 617643) and the other on 12 Oct in the Song Ve Valley (BS 668587). In the early afternoon of 3 Aug, 174th Avn engaged an unknown size enemy force, at BS 440770, resulting in 16 VC KIA. Later that night D/3-1 engaged a sampan killing 6 VC in the vicinity of BS 445759. On the morning of the next day, B/3-1 detonated an unknown type boobytrap, killing 1 US and wounding 7 US at BS 470785. Action was light in the 11th Bde AO until the night of 9 Aug. F/8 (Night Hawk) engaged an unknown size enemy force, killing 6 NVA at BS 252622. Later that evening, F/8 (Night Hawk) killed 8 more NVA at BS 272620. On 14 Aug, 174th Avn killed 5 VC at BS 560824. However, at BS77138, **C/1-20** detonated an unknown type mine which resulted in 1 US KIA and 30 US WIA (E). 3 days later, C/4-3 received mortar rounds from D/4-3 resulting in 2 US KNP and 3 US WHE. Action remained light until the early morning hours of the 30th. A total of 15 VC/NVA were killed before 0400H. F/8 Cav (Night Hawk) accounted for 5 VC at BS 713581. 174th Avn engaged and killed 5 NVA at BS 751502 while B/1-20 killed 5 VC and captured 2 individual weapons after receiving hand grenades and RPG fire. On 1 Sep A/4-3 had one of their mechanical ambushes detonate resulting in 5 NVA KIA and 3 individual weapons and 1 crew served weapons captured at BS 725337. A short time later at BS 556633, B/123d Avn engaged an unknown size enemy force resulting in 15 NVA KIA, 1 US MIA, and 2 US WIA (E). On the morning of 2 Sep, D/3-1 and E/1-1 Cav received 50 RPG rounds which resulted in 2 US KIA and 9 US WIA (E) at BS 559639. That evening C/3-1 received 1 82mm mortar round resulting in 5 US WIA (M) at BS 616643. In the afternoon of 3 Sep, C/3-1 suffered 9 US WIA (E) due to small arms fire and RPG fire at BS 561634. On 7 Sep, B/4-21 engaged an unknown size enemy force at BS 908299 resulting in 2 VC KIA, 2 detainees, 1 individual weapons captured and 3 US WIA (E). On 11 Sep, B/3-1 found 10 NVA killed by gunships at BS 561636. On 15 Sep, B/3-1 received heavy small arms, mortar and RPG fire resulting in 1 NVA KIA, 2 individual weapons captured, 1 US KIA, 2 US WIA (E) and 2 US WIA (M). The AO saw light action until 28 Sep when a rocket from a supporting gunship fell short onto A/3-1's location at BS 519658. Casualties were 5 US WIA (E) and 1 US WIA (M). Action was light until 2 Oct when D/4-21 found a large base camp at BS 742308. In the ensuing battle, 1 NVA was killed and 5 US were wounded. The next day, C/1-20 with 123d Avn killed 7 VC at BS 785506. On 4 Oct, there was an increase in enemy activity directed towards GVN outposts and villages. Seven villages and outposts were attacked. An RF outpost at Nui My was attacked resulting in 3 US KIA, 4 US WIA (E), 2 RF KIA and 10 RF WIA (E). On 5 Oct, B/1-20 killed 5 VC, capturing 3 individual weapons and sustained 2 US WIA at BS 753629. Two days later B/1-20 detonated a 60mm mortar round resulting in 1 US KIA, 3 US WIA (E) and 1 US WIA (M). On 11 Oct, D/3-1 with 174th Avn killed 5 VC at BS 447730. On the following day, B/1-20 engaged an

unknown size enemy force at 1230H resulting in 3 US KIA, 7 US WIA (E), 1 US MIA and 1 NVA KIA. During a surge operation on 12 Oct, elements of B/1-20 were inserted into a hot LZ vicinity BS 665867. During the insertion, one helicopter was shot down. The 3rd platoon of D/1-20 was inserted into a hot LZ vicinity BS 667587. As the 3rd platoon with company command elements swept toward the down helicopter, they received intense small arms and RPG fire resulting in 4 US KIA (including the company commander). 1 US KIA?, 11 US WIA (E) and 1 US WIA (M). At 1045 H 19 Oct, **B/1-20** while on patrol, uncovered a cache containing 1000 lbs of unpolished rice in four sacks marked Connell's Extra Long Grain and Sugar Co, INC, Dallas, Texas. Three tags were marked "Fertilizer Donated by the U.S." In the early evening of 20 Oct, **C/1-20** found a tunnel complex in the vicinity of BS 728623, containing six 155mm artillery rounds and two RPG rounds. In the afternoon of 23 Oct, A/3-1 on a search mission found a base camp with indications of recent use. Further searching revealed a cache consisting of 2000 lbs of rice, two unknown type foreign rifles, two AK-47's, two Thompson Sub-machine guns, 2 105mm rounds, 1 B-40 rocket and miscellaneous small arms ammunition, blasting caps, medical supplies and clothing and an NVA flag, red with gold lettering and a gold star in the center. There were no further significant contacts during the remainder of the reporting period. The results of **Operation Iron Mountain were:**

US	ENEMY
30 KIA	397 KIA (CONF)
305 WIA (E)	27 KIA (PROB)
53 WIA (M)	2 DET
0 MIA	15 PW/VC
	1 PW/NVA
	5 RTNEE/VC
	336 CIV DEF
	210 IN CIV
	123 IWC
	5 CSWC

(b) **Operation GENEVA PARK,** conducted by the 198th Infantry Brigade and the 6th ARVN Regiment was initiated effective 180001 H March 1969 with the mission of securing the major lines of communications and the destruction of enemy forces posing a threat to Quang Ngai City of the Chu Lai Combat Base complex was terminated at 010600H March 1971. During the reporting period contacts and engagements varied from light to moderate. D/4-3 in a light engagement on 3 November at BS451971 at 1435H accounted for 3 NVA KIA and 2 IWC. On the 5th of November D/5-46 made contact during a combat assault (BT295137) with 3 VC KIA and no friendly casualties. On 4 November in the early morning hours B/1-52 Inf engaged 4 VC. Results of the contact were 3 VC KIA, 2 MAM detained. A tracker dog team was used and followed a trail to a spider hole where 1 VC was found. He had been wounded in the earlier contact. On 6 November a convoy carrying a chassis for a 175mm gun was moved by road from Binh Son to Tra Bong without incident. On 8 November R/5-46 made contact at BT414033 with 6 VC. Results of the action were 5 VC KIA. At 0820H on the same day B/1-52 detonated a booby trapped 105mm round resulting in 3 US KIA and 3 US WIA(E). D/1-46 was placed OPCON to the 198th Infantry Brigade effective 101730H for operations west of Ky Tra. At 1830H on 12 November A/5-46 (BT244124) received 12 60mm rounds resulting in 6 US WIA(E). Numerous minor contacts throughout the AO resulted in 10 10 VC and 1 NVA KIA. On 13 November gunships from 116th AHC made two engagements, one at 0830H vic BS564788 resulting in 5 VC KBG/S and the other at 2030H vic BS558790 resulting in 3 more VC KBG/S. A/5-46 suffered 7 US WIA(E) on 20 November when a booby trap was detonated at BT393092. On 22 November D/1-52, while on an Eagle Flight, teamed up with 174th Avn and engaged an unknown size enemy force in the vicinity of BS495793. Results of the contact were 11 VC KIA and 7 IWC. No major engagements were reported from 23 November through 6 December. Results of small engagements during this period were : 18 VC KIA, 2 NVA KIA, 3 IWC, 7 US KIA, 23 US WIA(E) and 1 US WIA(M). At 0350H on 11 December, while conducting a night raid vicinity of BS492824, D/1-52 accounted for 3 VC KIA and 1 IWC. Friendly losses were 1 US KIA and 1 WIA(E). Later the same date D/1-52 engaged 12 VC at the same location and as a result of the contact 10 VC were KIA, 5 IWC and 7 VN detained. There were no friendly casualties. During the period 7-19 December 1970 the 198th Brigade reported a total of 32 VC/NVA KIA and 17 IWC while suffering a loss of 3 US KIA and 30 US WIA. On 20 December 1970 in two scattered engagements, B/1-52 operating in the vicinity of BS494838, engaged 2 VC in a bunker, killing both. An hour and a half later B/1-52 engaged 4 VC resulting in 4 VC KIA. There was light and scattered action throughout the AO during the period 21 December through 241800H December, at which time Division units assumed a defensive posture for the Christmas Truce Period. Results of engagements for the period were: 15 VC/NVA KIA, 2 IWC and 2 US WIA(E). At 251801H December 1970, Division units resumed offensive operations. There were no contacts reported on Christmas Day. Relative quiet prevailed throughout the AO until 31 December when elements of C/1-52 in the vicinity of BS547844 detonated a Bouncing Betty mine which required aero-medical evacuation for 4 US soldiers. The period from Christmas Day through the

(Continued 1)

end of the year was marked by very light activity throughout the AO. Totals for the period 25-31 December 1970 were : 4 VC/NVA KIA and 11 US WIA(E). There were no contact reported on the first day of 1971 and very light activity was reported in the GENEVA PARK area for the first five days of the New Year. On 6 January 1971, activity picked up with A/5-46 finding a weapons cache at BT340098 consisting of 3 IWC and 2 CSWC. At 1030H, in the same location, a booby trap was detonated resulting in 1 US WIA(E). One hour earlier at BT366048 B/5-46 engaged 4 VC which resulted in 1 VC KIA and 1 IWC. At 1745H, C/1-52 on a search and clear mission, engaged and killed 1 VC. At 071045H January, C/1-52 operating at BS559823, engaged 1 VC, resulting in 1 VC KIA, 1 VN detained and 1 US WIA(E). Activity again picked up on 9 January. In a series of scattered engagements, 1-52 accounted for 9 VC/NVA KIA. At 1400H, at BS555868, C/1-52 found 6 fresh graves and at BS555822, C/1-52 engaged an unknown size enemy force, resulting in 3 VC KIA. During the action a booby trap was detonated causing 2 US WIA(E). The results of the actions from 1-9 January were: 18 VC/NVA KIA, 4 IWC, 2 CSWC, 1 US KIA, 12 US WIA(E) and 2 US WIA(M). At 1415H vic BT336077 on 11 January, B/5-46 detonated an unknown type booby trap that resulted in 1 US KIA and 8 WIA(E). On the same day at 2015H Ranger teams Maine and Michigan from G/75 Rangers received SAF and hand grenades, forcing the unit to be extracted by McGuire rigs from a hot LZ. US casualties for the contact were 1 US KIA, 1 WIA(E) and 3 WIA(M). Action was light on the 13th, but on 14 January, C/5-46 detonated a booby trapped hand grenade vic BT328094 at 1445H, resulting in 4 US WIA(E). On 15 January at 0930H an element of G/75 Rangers engaged 3 VC vic BS451951, resulting in 2 VC KIA, 2 IWC and 1 US WIA(M). There was light contact on 16 January. On 17 January at 0110H at BS553791, A/1-52 engaged and killed 6 VC, with 2 IWC after the US element had received M79 fire from the enemy force. The same day at 0207H R/1-52 detonated an unknown type booby trap that resulted in 8 US WIA(E). In two contacts later in the day at 1305H and 1550H C/1-52 killed 6 VC with 1 IWC while detaining 1 VC suspect. The 198th Brigade reported light contact in Operation GENEVA PARK on 18 January. On 19 January D/5-46 had 6 US WIA(M) in a contact with an unknown size enemy force vic BT340075 at 1230H. During the period 11-20 January, the 198th Brigade reported enemy losses as 29 VC and 1 NVA KIA, 1 detainee, 6 IWC and 1 CSWC. US casualties during the same period were 1 KIA, 34 WIA(E), and 7 WIA(M). Quiet prevailed throughout the AO from 21-26 January with reports of no contact being rendered by the majority of the maneuver elements. On 27 January while searching in the vicinity of BS355807, D/1-52 engaged an unknown size force and accounted for 4 NVA KIA, 2 IWC and 2 VN detained. There were no friendly casualties. Again, quiet returned to the AO with reports of light and scattered contacts until D/1-52 broke the silence on 30 January. During a search and clear mission at BS358795, a 3-10 man enemy force was taken under SAF. Results of the fire fight disclosed 4 NVA KIA with no friendly casualties. Results of all contacts for period ending 31 January 1971 were: 22 VC/NVA KIA, 12 IWC, 1 US KIA and 8 US WIA(E). On the 1st day of February R/5-46 came under

(Continued 2)

intense mortar and SAF while working in the vicinity of BT452938 and suffered 5 US KIA and 8 US WIA(E). Enemy casualties were not determined. On 3 February in a series of minor engagements 198th Brigade reported a total of 9 VC/NVA KIA while suffering no friendly casualties. An unknown type booby trap detonated by elements of C/5-46 at BT431055 resulted in 4 US WIA(E). Operating in the Geneva Park AO on the same day, elements of G/75 Rangers engaged an unknown size enemy force in the vicinity of BT433064. In the fight that followed the Rangers suffered 5 US WIA(E) and 5 US WIA(M) while enemy casualties were unknown. In a brief skirmish on 12 February at BS563810, A/1-52 was engaged by an unknown size enemy force and took 5 US WIA(E). Enemy losses were unknown. From 13 February through 24 February there was very little activity in the AO. On 25 February D/1-52, while operating in the vicinity of BS287605, received SAF and RPG fire from an unknown size enemy force resulting in 5 US WIA(E). There were no enemy casualties reported. The results of all contacts and engagements for the month of February were 68 VC/NVA KIA, 33 IWC, 1 CSWC, 7 US KIA, 60 US WIA(E) and 19 US WIA(M). Initiated at 180001H March 1969, Operation GENEVA PARK was terminated effective 010600H March 1971. The results for Operation GENEVA PARK for the reporting period are:

US		ENEMY	
26	KIA	334	KIA (CONF)
225	WIA(E)	0	KIA (PROB)
32	WIA(M)	1350	DET
0	MIA	24	PW/VC
		4	PW/NVA
		6	RTNEE/VC
		0	RTNEE/NVA
		146	CIV DEF
		124	IN CIV
		112	IWC
		5	CSWC

Cumulative results of Operation GENEVA PARK are:

US		ENEMY	
231	KIA	2337	KIA (CONF)
1564	WIA(E)	0	KIA (PROB)
232	WIA(M)	1353	DET
0	MIA	45	PW/VC
		22	PW/NVA
		49	RTNEE/VC
		3	RTNEE/NVA
		879	CIV DEF
		640	IN CIV
		532	IWC
		49	CSWC

SUBJECT: Operational Report - Lessons Learned, 23d Infantry Division (Americal), Period Ending 30 April 1971, RCS CSFOR - 65 (R3) (U)

(c) Operation IRON MOUNTAIN, conducted in Quang Ngai Province by the 11th Infantry Brigade in close coordination with the 4th ARVN Regiment, concentrated on the security of major lines of communications and through constant combat operations and civic programs was instrumental in furthering the goals of pacification throughout the combined TAOR. Operation IRON MOUNTAIN was terminated effective 010600H March 1971. In the first week of the reporting period the 11th Infantry Brigade had no major contacts. A total of 6 NVA and 2 VC were reported killed. At 081400H November (BS622528), D/4-3 found 11 graves. Bodies bore evidence of having been killed by artillery. On 10 November in a series of minor engagements throughout the AO, 6 VC and 4 NVA were reported killed. US casualties were 6 US WIA(E). There no further significant contacts in the IRON MOUNTAIN AO until 19 November, vic BS769557, when an unknown type booby trap was detonated and resulted in 5 US WIA(E). Isolated and light contacts continued throughout the AO until the early morning hours of 22 November when C/4-3 had three mechanical ambushes detonate vic BS606474 which resulted in a total of 10 VC killed and the capture of assorted clothing, equipment and documents. Later the same day R/3-1, while searching bunkers and military structures in the vicinity of BS582757, detonated an 82mm mortar round resulting in 4 US KIA, 3 US WIA(E) and 1 US WIA(M). C/1-20 detonated an unknown type booby trap at 031250H December while operating in the vic of BS735600 which resulted in 5 US WIA(E). From 23 November through 6 December, in a series of small unit engagements, the 11th Infantry Brigade reported a total of 39 VC KIA, 4 NVA KIA, 10 IWC, 2 US KIA, 36 US WIA(E) and 3 US WIA(M). There were light and scattered contacts reported by the 11th Infantry Brigade from 7 through 10 December. On 11 December, C/4-3, while on patrol, uncovered a weapons cache vicinity BS 622458. The cache consisted of 3 81mm mortar tubes, 5 7.5mm French machine guns, 2 M1 rifles, 2 French automatic rifles, 1 French rifle, 1 M2 Carbine and 2 PRC-10 radios. At BS515705, on the same day, A/3-1, while searching a tunnel complex, found a cache consisting of 1 BAR, 2 K44 rifles, 1 M1 Carbine and 1 SKS rifle. On 16 December elements of F/8 Cav, operating in the vicinity of BS753446, engaged 5 VC which resulted in 5 VC KIA with no friendly casualties. Totals reported by the 11th Brigade for the period 7 through 19 December were 32 VC/NVA KIA, 29 IWC and 8 CSWC. Friendly casualties were 1 KIA, 17 WIA(E), and 4 WIA(M). Activity was light throughout the AO and was characterized by small scattered contacts until 24 December 1970, when R/4-21 came under sniper fire at BS813329 and suffered 2 US KIA and 3 US WIA(E). Enemy casualties were unknown. At 1800H, 24 December, Division units assumed a defensive role for the twenty-four hour Christmas Truce Period. Units engaged in defensive patrolling and ambushes during the truce period. There were no contacts reported on 25 December 1970. Division units resumed offensive operations at 1801H, 25 December 1970. A mechanical ambush set out by C/4-21 at BS819339 was detonated at 1855H, 26 December 1970 and resulted in 3 VC KIA. A booby trapped hand grenade at BS519752 was detonated by an element of A/3-1 and resulted in 1 US WIA(E), the only US casualty of the day. Light and scattered contacts prevailed through 31 December 1970. From 1800H,

(Continued 1)

31 December 1970 until 1801H 1 January 1971, all Division units observed the New Years Truce Period. Necessary defensive patrols and defensive ambushes were conducted. The period from 20 December through 31 December resulted in the following: 46 VC/NVA KIA, 10 IWC, 10 US WIA(E) and 5 US WIA(M). Of the 46 enemy KIA, 31 KIA were credited to aviation elements, artillery fires and Ranger activities. There were no contacts reported in the first three days of 1971. In a minor skirmish on 4 January at BS704555 C/1-20 engaged 2 VC. As a result of the action, 1 VC was KIA and 2 IWC. on 5 January R/1-20 teamed up with 174th Aviation and C/6-11 Artillery and, in a fire fight at BS763580, engaged an unknown size enemy force. The results were 7 NVA KIA and 1 IWC. There were no US casualties. At 1220H, 8 January 1971, C/4-21, operating in the vicinity of BS752360, detonated two 105mm artillery rounds. The resulting explosion caused 2 US KIA and 12 WIA(E). On 10 January at BS724435 in the late afternoon R/1-20 engaged an enemy force resulting in 5 NVA KIA with no US casualties. Results of all engagements and contacts for the first ten days of January were reported by the 11th Infantry Brigade as: 29 VC/NVA KIA, 4 IWC, 2 US KIA, 18 US WIA(E) and 3 US WIA(M). The 11th Brigade reported light contact on 11 January. The following day 174th Avn gunships flying in support of a B/1-20 contact engaged and killed 4 NVA and captured 4 individual weapons in the vicinity of BS640523 at 1015H. The same day at 1015H in the vicinity of BS756429 R/1-20 detonated a booby trapped 105mm round resulting in 3 US WIA(E) and 1 US WIA(M). The 11th Brigade reported light contact until 14 January when A/4-3 found 5 individual weapons in the vicinity of BS522396. The following day at 1500H D/4-3 found 5 individual weapons in the vicinity of BS637459. Also on the 15th at 1745H, C/4-3 engaged 4 VC resulting in 3 VC KIA. On 16 January B/123 Avn in two contacts engaged an unknown size enemy force resulting in 13 VC KIA, the first contact was at 1200H vic BS293576, the other at 1405H vic BS278499. The same day a USAF air strike at BS298556 resulted in 5 VC KIA. ON 17 January a vehicle from 723d Maintenance was ambushed by an unknown size enemy force vic BS917173 that resulted in 2 US KIA and 1 US WIA(E). The 11th Brigade reported light action on the 18th, 19th and 20th of January. Total results for the period 11-20 January were 49 VC and 7 NVA KIA with 17 IWC. US casualties reported during the period were 3 US KIA, 13 US WIA(E) and 4 US WIA(M). While operating in the vicinity of BS401499 on 23 January, B/123 Avn engaged 8 VC which resulted in 8 VC KIA. Again on 25 January B/123 Avn, in three unrelated contacts accounted for a total of 20 NVA/VC KIA. At 1125H vicinity BS500381, 3 NVA were KIA, at 1415H BS258581 7 NVA were engaged resulting in 7 NVA KIA. Two hours later at BS392376, B/123 Avn engaged 16 NVA resulting in 10 NVA KIA. Working the area vicinity BS830430, 26 January, B/123 Avn engaged an unknown size enemy force resulting in 9 VC KIA. A/4-21 had a defensive mechanical ambush detonate at BS877246 which resulted in 5 NVA/VC KIA. As a result of an air strike against an unknown size enemy force vicinity BS299561, FAC reported a total of 5 NVA KBA/S. Contacts were light to moderate during the period 21-31 January with the 11th Infantry Brigade reporting a total of 65 VC/NVA KIA, 6 IWC, 27 US WIA(E) and 3 US WIA(M). Two

contacts were reported for the first two days of February. B/123 Avn on 3 February in the vicinity of BS735596 engaged 15 VC. As a result of this contact B/123 reported 12 VC KIA, 2 detainees and 2 IWC. After four days of no contact being reported, C/6-11 Artillery on 8 February reported that an M34 truck vehicle detonated a thirty-five pound mine at BS780425 which resulted in 5 US WIA(E). B/123d Avn engaged 7 VC/NVA at BS283473 on 19 February 1971. Results of the engagement were 7 VC/NVA KIA. While on a search and clear mission, 21 February at BS675592, elements of B/1-20 detonated a booby trap that resulted in 2 US KIA and 7 US WIA(E). On 22 February, at BS713558, D/1-1 Cav reported a contact with an unknown size enemy force. Final results of this fire fight were 13 VC/NVA KIA. There were no friendly losses. A/1-20 suffered 4 US WIA(E) as a result of detonating a booby trapped 105mm artillery around on 24 February while operating in the area of BS689501. Working with B/1-20, D/1-1 Cav engaged 6 VC/NVA in the early evening of 28 February at BS732442. Credits for the engagement are 3 VC/NVA KIA by D/1-1 Cav, 2 VC/NVA KIA by B/1-20. US forces reported negative casualties. Cumulative results for all contacts and engagements for period 1-28 February 1971 are as follows: 126 VC/NVA KIA, 27 IWC, 5 CSWC, 3 US KIA, 53 US WIA(E) and 3 US WIA(M). Operation IRON MOUNTAIN was initiated effective 180001H March 1969 and was terminated at 010600H March 1971. Results of Operation IRON MOUNTAIN for the reporting period are:

US		ENEMY	
36	KIA	497	KIA (CONF)
232	WIA(E)	123	KIA (PROB)
24	WIA(M)	2573	DET
0	MIA	15	PW/VC
		4	PW/NVA
		1	RTNEE/VC
		2	RTNEE/NVA
		38	CIV DEF
		76	IN CIV
		128	IWC
		12	CSWC

The next section of extracted materials comes from the Aviation (16th Combat Aviation Group) Operational Reports and Lessons Learned.

AVGD_BC **11 August 1967**
SUBJECT: Operational Report for Quarterly Period 31 July 1967 (RCS_CS FOR 65)

g. Command.

(1) During this period the (14th Avn) battalion was commanded by LTC William R. Ponder, 070473, Armor.

(2) **Major Thomas W. Wheat Jr., 04009596, Artillery, assumed command of the 174th Avn Co on 26 June 1967.**

UNIT	NUMBER OF AIRCRAFT	HEADQUARTERS LOCATION
174th Avn Co	**20 UH-1D, 8 UH-1C**	**Duc Pho, RVN (BS 812 382)**

...

(3) In order to give the best possible combat support, units of the battalion were dispersed as follows:

AVN UNIT	UNIT SUPPORTED
71st Aviation Company	DS to 196th Light Infantry Brigade
161st Aviation Company	GS to Task Force Oregon
174th Aviation Company	**DS to 3rd Brigade, 101st Airborne**
178th Aviation Company	GS to Task Force Oregon

AVGD_BC **11 August 1967**

SUBJECT: Operational Report for Quarterly Period 31 July 1967 (RCS_CS FOR 65)

(11) On 26 May the maintenance base of the **174th Aviation Company** closed the Duc Pho area, greatly increasing the capability of the company. Previously maintenance had been located at Lane AHP and English Field due to the tactical situation at Duc Pho.

(13) On 240055 June, a hostile mortar attack was initiated against the Duc Pho airfield complex. In a five minute span, 7 rounds landed in the **174th Aviation Company** area. One round hit a troop tent **killing 2 and wounding 36 personnel.** Three UH-1D's and one UH-1C, located in "U" shaped revetments, were damaged. Most casualties were from the company's 409th Maintenance Detachment. Temporary replacements from other battalion assets were flown in to keep satisfactory maintenance support available.

(14) The **174th** participated in a combat assault at 0700 on 3 July 1967 during which all aviators and crew members were required to wear gas masks. Prior to the combat assault Air Force A-1E's dropped a large concentration of CS gas into the area of operations. The combat assault and ground
operation proved very successful and similar operations will very likely be conducted in the future.

(15) On 150020 July, two gunships and a flareship from the 71st Aviation Company were scrambled to attack a North Vietnamese Trawler driven shoreward by the Navy near the mouth of the RIVIERE DE SA KY (BS 7882). They were relieved on station at 0130 by ships of the 161st Aviation Company. At 0300 coordination was effected with the ROK MC Brigade to air assault 492 ROK Marines into LZ's to secure and capture the ship. By 0930 all troops were on the ground and the ship and cargo of arms and ammunition were in friendly hands. ***[The 174th AHC also reported taking part in the action]***

c. Class II and IV:

(1) Emergency Resupply of tents to the **174th**: On 24 June 1967, the 174th Avn Co at Duc Pho requested immediate resupply of 3 GP large tents, 2 GP medium tents, 30 cots and some tent repair kits. These were to replace and repair items damaged or destroyed in the mortar attack of the night before. Four GP medium tents were immediately released by the 94th S & S Bn (no large GP were available) and 2 large GP tents were transferred from the 161st Aviation Company to the 174th Aviation Company. Though some cots were available, it was found that only four or five were unrepairable and these were replaced from company stocks. Tent repair kits were obtained from the FSA at Duc Pho. All tents were shipped south on a CH-47 reserved for this purpose. All damaged items were repaired or replaced within 18 hours after the attack.

(2) During the mortar attack on the **174th Avn Co, 24 June, approximately 35 personnel from the aircraft maintenance unit** of the company were wounded. Emergency requisitions for personnel were submitted to the 17th Avn Group and Army. Temporary replacements were selected from other maintenance units within the battalion, and the direct support Transportation Company, and placed on TDY with the 174th Aviation Company until replacements arrived. The fast reaction time in placing appropriate personnel on TDY with the 174th Aviation Company enabled routine support to continue without any difficulty.

c. Battalion units, particularly **the 174th Aviation Company** in the Duc Pho area, have donated soap and candy to orphanages and, when possible, building materials and tools to assist in the construction of refugee centers.

b. Maintenance

(1) Item: Availability of Float Helicopters in Transportation Companies for issue as replacement of combat damaged aircraft.

Discussion: On two occasions units of this battalion have experienced both battle damage and structural damage to helicopters during routine combat operations. On 15 May 67, 19 aircraft of the battalion sustained battle damage. Five of the damaged aircraft required evacuation by CH-47 to the direct support Transportation Company. Three UH-1D's remained in direct maintenance for approximately 45 days for extensive sheet metal repairs and awaiting repair parts. ***[15 May 67 was action of the 176th AHC and 161st AHC that resulted in the award of the CMOH to LTC Charles Kettles.]***

On another occasion UH-1C gunships from the **174th Aviation Company** experienced roof, firewall and engine deck separation. Six of the eight UH-1C gunships were turned in to the direct support maintenance for repair. No mission ready float gunships were available to issue for the six in support maintenance.

Observation: The loss of five and six UH-1D and UH-1C helicopters without immediate replacement floats or assigned aircraft seriously reduced the mission capability of the battalion. The assignment of float aircraft to support operations of this nature is desirable and would insure the combat posture of the aviation battalion is not impaired.

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
HEADQUARTERS, 14TH COMBAT AVIATION BATTALION
APO San Francisco 96374

AVGD_BC 14 November 1967

SUBJECT: Operation Report for Quarterly Period 31 October 31, 1967 (RCS-CS FOR 65)
TO: SEE DISTRIBUTION

Section I: Significant Organizational Activities

1. (C) General

a. The mission of the 14th CAB is to provide timely direct and general aviation support to the elements of Task Force Oregon and selected units within I CTZ and to maintain a Provisional Aviation Battalion Headquarters to provide command, control, administration and logistics for separate aviation units assigned to the Task Force.

b. Major organizational changes during this quarter were:

(1) Task Force Oregon redesignated the Americal Division effective 22 2400 September 1967. 1967.

(2) The 756th Medical Detachment (-) was detached from the 161st Aviation Company attached to the **174th Aviation Company** effective 4 August 1967.

c. Aircraft assets and their location at the close of this reporting period are as follows:

UNIT	NUMBER OF AIRCRAFT	HEADQUARTERS LOCATION
HHD, 14TH CAB	1 U6A	Chu Lai, RVN (BT 572 035)
14th Sec Plt		
348th Avn Det		
534th Med Det		
71st Avn Co	19 UH1D, 8 UH-1C	Chu Lai, RVN (BT 541 064)
94th Sig Det		
151st TC Det		
161st Avn Co	19 UH-1D, 8 UH-1B	Chu Lai, RVN (BT 575 033)
406th TC Det		
449th Sig Det		
756th Med Det (-)		
174th Avn Co	**21 UH-1D, 8 UH-1C**	**Duc Pho, RVN (BS 812 382)**
409th TC Det		
452nd Sig Det		
756th Med Det		
176th Avn Co	19 UH-1D, 8 UH-1C	Duc Pho, RVN (BS 845 370)
411th TC Det		
454th Sig Det		
178th Avn Co	16 CH-47A, 2 OH-23G	Chu Lai, RVN (BT 547 057)
400 TC Det		

e. Transportation and Signal Detachments continue to remain attached to each Aviation Company to facilitate aircraft and avionics maintenance support.

f. Medical support assets have been divided to afford aviation medical support at both Chu Lai and Duc Pho.

g. Command.

(1) LTC Carroll C. Isaacs, OF 100 091, Armor, assumed command of the [14th CAB] battalion on 7 August 1967.

(4) The 174th Aviation Company was commanded by Major Thomas W. Wheat Jr., 04 009 596, Artillery.

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
HEADQUARTERS, 14TH COMBAT AVIATION BATTALION
APO San Francisco 96374

AVGD_BC 14 November 1967
SUBJECT: Operation Report for Quarterly Period 31 October 31, 1967 (RCS-CS FOR 65)

d. Weather has had an impact on operations during this quarter particularly during the latter half of September and early October. Although relatively few missions have been cancelled, there have been frequent mission delays especially in the early morning hours. The most serious impact has been that low ceilings have forced all aircraft to fly at lower altitudes thus increasing exposure time to enemy ground fire.

e. Units of the battalion and particularly the **174th Aviation Company** in the Duc Pho area have contributed to the psychological warfare effort by dropping several hundred thousand leaflets each week and flying loudspeaker teams on numerous broadcasting missions. In the latter part of October, effort in the Duc Pho area has concentrated on the "CHIEU HOI" program.

(3) In order to give the best possible combat support, units of the battalion were dispersed as follows:

AVN UNIT	UNIT SUPPORTED
71st Aviation Company	Direct Support to 196th Light Infantry Brigade
161st Aviation Company	General Support to Americal Division
174th Aviation Company	Direct Support to 3rd Brigade, 4th Infantry Division
176th Aviation Company	Direct support to 1st Brigade 101st Airborne Infantry Division
178th Aviation Company	General support to Americal Division.

(8) On 24 August 1967 the **174th Aviation Company** lifted A Company 2/35th Infantry into an LZ without artillery or gunship preparation. The lift was conducted at first light and apparently caught the enemy off guard. The ground unit killed 21, captured several small arms, a rocket launcher and a 60mm mortar. Aircraft did not receive fire going into the LZ which would further indicate complete surprise.

(7) Training of replacement crew members continued to require an extensive OJT? program for gunners and crew chief and a closely coordinated standardization program for new aviators.

(8) During this reporting period the **174th Aviation Company** has conducted training classes for the NCO Academy of the 3rd Brigade, 4th Infantry Division. The classes were given on the optimum utilization

(4) Duc Pho area: The **174th Aviation Company** completed construction of a new mess hall and have moved from tents with dirt floors to tents with wooden floors. The new tents have been constructed with steel plates atop the frames and the plates then covered with sandbags. This type construction affords considerable protection from incoming mortar rounds.

AVDF-ABSC
SUBJECT: Operational Report - Lessons Learned (16th Combat Aviation Group) Period Ending (31 October 1969) RCS CSFOR-65 (RI)

d. Plans, Operations, and Training

(1) Plans:

(a) The 16th CAG continues to provide Army Aviation support to the Americal Division.

....

(b) The Aero Scout concept will continue to be the primary method of employment for B Company, 123d Avn Bn. With the attachment of D Troop, 1st Squadron, 1st Cavalry to the 123d Avn Bn on 1 October 1969, the Battalion in essence becomes an Air Cavalry Squadron. The Battalion will remain in general support of the Division and direct support of the Brigades on a mission basis. A Company provides general support lift aircraft for the Division. B Company, 123d Avn Bn will normally support the 11th Inf Bde; D Troop, 1st Cavalry on the 198th Inf Bde; and F Troop, 8th Cavalry the 196th Inf Bde.

(c) The assignment of the 132nd and 178th Assault Support Helicopter Companies to the 14th CAB on 1 October 1969, increased the responsiveness of these aircraft to follow up combat assault requirements. They are frequently used to rapidly build up troop concentrations in LZs after they LZ has been secured and the enemy situation permits the use of CH-47 helicopters.

(d) The 71st AHC, **174th AHC** and the 176th AHC will continue to support the 196th Inf Bde, **11th Inf Bde** and 198th Inf Bde, respectively.

(e) The 132nd and 178th Assault Support Helicopter Companies assigned to the 14th CAB will remain in general support of the Division.

(f) The 14th CAB has been given the responsibility to operate a refuel point at Tien Phuoc, BT1114. Basic construction is completed and the point is expected to be operational during the second week of November 1969.

(g) A briefing team was formed to provide instruction on external load activities and CH-47 operations to all units within the Americal Division. It is too early to evaluate the results, however, there should be a notable improvement in the quality and efficiency of sling load operations.

.....

(d) Reconstruction began in October on the **174th AHC Maintenance Hanger** that was destroyed last June. Program has been extremely slow.

7 13 March: The **174th AHC**, assisted by CH-47 aircraft, conducted a combat assault to secure and establish a new fire support base. The **174th** then airlifted the 2/1 Inf Bn and the 4/3 Inf Bn into their areas of operation northeast of GIA Vuc (BS3727) to complete the first phase of the operation. The following day the final phase was completed when the 174th AHC assaulted 900 troops of the 4th ARVN Regiment into their area of operation. All of these moves were completed without a mishap or incident and greatly contributed to the success of the combined operation.

9 1-3 April: Gunships of the **174th AHC** were providing close fire support for Regional and Popular Force units in the vicinity of Quang Ngai City (BS 6472). In the afternoon of 1 April, the gunships located an estimated VC Company trying to evade west (BS 6576). They obtained clearance to fire and attacked the evading enemy. Their attack caused the enemy to seek cover and allowed the RF/PF units to engage them from a favorable position. On 3 April they once again engaged an enemy force while in support of RF/PF units (BS 6071). The constant pressure of the attacking aircraft caused the enemy to withdraw from positions from which they had intended to launch attacks on Quang Ngai City. During these two actions, three aircraft were damaged and some crew members were wounded in action. The unit was credited with 80 enemy kills.

AVDF-ABSC
SUBJECT: Operational Report - Lessons Learned (16th Combat Aviation Group (Combat)) Period Ending (31 January 1970) RCS CSFOR-65 (RI)

(a) Approval of all new construction has been drastically curtailed due to recent cutbacks on funds for construction projects. Increased emphasis is being placed on R and U activities in lieu of new construction. The major gain was the construction of an aircraft maintenance hanger at the **174th AHC at Duc Pho**.

(1) Communications:

(a) HF Radio Teletype: **174th AHC**, Duc Pho, established secure teletype contact with Bn Hq, Chu Lai, by use of an AN/GRC-142.

3 3 May: On this date the 14th Aviation Battalion (Combat) was supporting the 196th Infantry Brigade and the 5th ARVN Regiment in an operation to encircle and destroy an estimated regimental size NVA force which held strong positions around the village of Hiep Duc despite numerous tactical air strikes and almost constant artillery fire. Six known .51 Cal positions had been located and were so well entrenched that air strikes had not been able to neutralize them. An element of the 5th ARVN Regiment was halted in the vicinity of AT 945265 by stubborn enemy resistance and at 1645 hours, the 14th Aviation Battalion (Combat) was alerted to assemble aircraft at Tam Ky Airfield for an assault operation. At 1735, nine aircraft from the 71st Assault Helicopter Company, five aircraft from the 174th Assault Helicopter Company, eight aircraft from the 176th Assault Helicopter Company of the 14th Aviation Battalion (Combat) and two aircraft from A Company, 123d Aviation Battalion had assembled at Tam Ky where they awaited the arrival of two battalions of the 5th ARVN Regiment. The first lift departed Tam Ky at 1830 hours and combat assaulted the first Battalion into an LZ at AT971264. At 1945 the second battalion lift departed the PZ. As the flare ship approached the landing zone, it was engaged by .51 Cal fire from position along the high ground to the north of the LZ (from AT 940290 to AT 970290). The flight started receiving small arms and automatic weapons fire while on a two mile final to the LZ. The second assault was completed at 2015 hours. The night assault was successful and the ARVN battalions were able to link up early the following morning and continue the attack. The rapid reaction of the 14th Aviation Battalion (Combat) contributed significantly to the success of the operation and aided in the destruction of the NVA forces holding Hiep Duc.

This is from the only issue known to exist of the 14th Aviation Battalion Newsletter, "The Roadrunner".

14th AVN BN IN OPERATION COOK

Flight after flight of UH-1D helicopters swept down into a landing zone southwest of Quang Ngai to mark the start of Operation Cook, 4 September.

535 Troopers from the 1st Bn, 327 Infantry, 101st Airborne Division were airlifted
into battle by the 14th Combat Aviation Battalion in what was to prove to be another successful Combat Assault.

Airstrikes, artillery, and gunships peppered the pre-selected landing zones prior to the arrival of 32 UH-1D Hueys. Eight gunships provided additional support to the troop laden ships and enabled Chinooks from the 178th Avn Co to bring in more troopers and much needed supplies throughout the day.

Working like precision clockwork, the 71st Avn Co, 161st Avn Co, **174th Avn Co**, 176th Avn Co, and the 178th Avn Co. were able to carry out the day's mission without the loss of a single aircraft.

The 14th Combat Aviation Battalion has been providing Task Force Oregon's ground elements with air support since April, 1967. The 14th is under the command of LTC Carroll Isaacs, 37, Louisville, Ky.

This is from the only issue known to exist of the 14th Aviation Battalion Newsletter, "The Roadrunner".

CLIMB PAST TEN FOR AUGUST (1967)

(17th GP IO) ... Nine to ten thousand hours is a lot of flying time and a well-earned monthly total for most Army aviation battalions in Vietnam.

Far exceeding their July totals of a mere 10,750 hours, pilots and crew chiefs of the 14th Aviation Battalion (17th Cbt Avn Gp) set their sights high and climbed to 11,691 hours in August.

Its four assault helicopter companies and one Chinook outfit in combat support of Task Force Oregon in Quang Ngai and Quang Tin Provinces, the 14th Battalion averaged an overall 81 per cent of its aircraft available to all August operations of the American ground forces.

One company, the **174th Assault Helicopter Company**, in operational support of the 3rd Brigade of the 4th Infantry Division, contributed over 3,000 hours to the month's total time.

In addition, 14th Battalion helicopters recorded some very impressive statistics in support of the August 13 – September 1 Operation Benton, which combined the 1st Brigade of the 101st Airborne Div. and the 196th Light Inf. Bde. in fierce VC encounters 11 miles west of Tam Ky.

Totals of enemy captured and killed ran high, as did the number of VC weapons reaped from the intense search and destroy operations. Flying totals also soared to modest highs.

During all August combat support of Task Force Oregon the 14th Battalion accounted for:

-- 71,446 troops lifted (12,256 or 20 per cent of those were credited to Operation Benton)

-- 7,745 tons of cargo hauled (compared to 2,046 tons or 26 per cent in Benton).

-- 93 confirmed VC killed by air for the 14th's gunships and 362 enemy structures destroyed (compared to Benton's 49 KIA's and 125 structures destroyed).

During August operations 14th Battalion "Arab" Commander LTC Carroll C. Isaacs (Louisville, Kentucky) could report that not one combat soldier was injured or killed aboard any of his fleet's helicopters.

This means that every infantryman lifted by the Army choppers arrived speedily and ready to fight when dropped off in the combat zone.

Several helicopter crew members were casualties, however, and one pilot aid the ultimate price in contributing to the August aviation support given by the 14th Combat Aviation Battalion. *(Note: WO Robert Scott from the 176th AHC died 08/25/67 in helicopter 65-10058 at grid location BT201099).*

In this case, the cost of sacrifice meant much more to the men on the ground, being supported by their counterparts in the air—combat Army aviators.

174 AHC helicopters – VHPA listing

List of ALL Helicopters used in Vietnam -

Model	Tail Number	Purch. Date MMYY	Begin in Unit YYMM	Begin Hours	Finish in Unit YYMM	Finish Hours	Total Hours in Unit	
UH-1D	63-12983	1164	6708	1193	6801	1754	561	
UH-1D	64-13555	0265	6708	1508	6709	1740	232	
UH-1D	64-13822	1065	6707	1677	6708	1875	198	
UH-1D	64-13870	1165	6610	372	6704	970	598	
UH-1D	64-13885	1165	6709	1605	6712	2041	436	
UH-1C	64-14109	0865	6812	663	6907	1102	439	
UH-1M	64-14140	1065	7009	1428	7112	2239	811	
UH-1C	**64-14157**	**1165**	**6805**	**812**	**7002**	**1815**	**1003**	**<-@ WI Vet Museum**
UH-1C	64-14162	1165	6705	567	6705	599	32	
UH-1C	64-14170	1165	6909	2034	7103	3072	1038	
UH-1C	65-09423	0166	6610	237	6705	470	233	
UH-1C	65-09424	0166	6610	304	6705	533	229	
UH-1C	65-09425	0166	6610	239	6702	348	109	
UH-1C	65-09426	0166	6610	173	6801	927	754	
UH-1C	65-09428	0166	6610	194	6801	616	422	
UH-1C	65-09429	0166	6610	211	6804	941	730	
UH-1C	65-09430	0166	6610	212	6705	518	306	
UH-1B	65-09431	0166	6610	84	6610	94	10	
UH-1C	65-09432	0166	6610	229	6705	397	168	
UH-1C	65-09470	0266	7101	2202	7112	2605	403	
UH-1C	65-09484	0366	6703	393	6705	572	179	
UH-1C	65-09504	0366	6808	907	6808	908	1	
UH-1C	65-09507	0466	7008	2465	7102	2987	522	
UH-1M	65-09540	0566	7008	1192	7112	1976	784	
UH-1C	65-09555	0566	7005	1708	7011	2030	322	
UH-1C	65-09557	0566	6706	462	6710	706	244	
UH-1D	65-09605	0166	6610	186	6612	334	148	
UH-1D	65-09619	0166	6610	215	6610	309	94	
UH-1D	65-09621	0166	6610	402	6802	1945	1543	
UH-1D	65-09638	0166	6610	518	6705	1116	598	
UH-1D	65-09639	0166	6610	478	6802	2124	1646	
UH-1D	65-09640	0166	6610	333	6802	1941	1608	
UH-1D	65-09641	0166	6610	402	6804	2289	1887	
UH-1D	65-09642	0166	6610	366	6807	1866	1500	
UH-1D	65-09643	0166	6610	386	6705	987	601	
UH-1D	65-09644	0166	6610	412	6712	1766	1354	
UH-1D	65-09646	0166	6610	372	6804	2092	1720	
UH-1D	65-09647	0166	6610	299	6707	1103	804	
UH-1D	65-09648	0166	6610	478	6801	2088	1610	
UH-1H	65-09679	0266	7105	3669	7112	4161	492	
UH-1D	65-09906	0566	6610	80	6807	1927	1847	
UH-1D	65-09910	0566	6708	527	6806	1469	942	
UH-1D	65-09911	0666	6610	140	6804	2049	1909	
UH-1D	65-09933	0666	6610	128	6611	128	0	
UH-1D	65-09938	0666	6610	119	6702	607	488	
UH-1D	65-09939	0666	6610	90	6804	1201	1111	

UH-1D	65-09946	0666	6610	52	6709	1167	1115
UH-1D	65-09952	0666	6610	82	6801	1759	1677
UH-1H	65-10020	0766	6812	1652	6902	1893	241
UH-1D	65-12863	0966	6611	0	6712	1472	1472
UH-1D	65-12872	0966	6703	97	6805	1621	1524
UH-1D	65-12874	0966	6703	256	6703	352	96
UH-1C	66-00590	0966	6811	1280	7004	2314	1034
UH-1C	66-00621	1066	7005	1700	7012	2087	387
UH-1C	66-00645	1066	6910	1170	7101	1912	742
UH-1C	66-00646	1066	6809	1111	7006	2429	1318
UH-1C	66-00662	1166	7004	1194	7004	1274	80
UH-1M	66-00722	0167	7103	1305	7112	1596	291
UH-1D	66-00864	1066	6707	690	6805	2014	1324
UH-1D	66-00874	1066	6703	101	6802	1356	1255
UH-1D	66-00888	1166	6710	846	6808	2051	1205
UH-1H	66-00993	1266	6903	1030	6907	1571	541
UH-1D	66-01016	1266	6710	780	6805	1804	1024
UH-1H	66-01022	1266	6905	656	7010	2107	1451
UH-1C	66-15040	0267	6908	1313	7004	1787	474
UH-1C	66-15045	0367	7003	1920	7011	2490	570
UH-1C	66-15060	0367	6806	420	6910	912	492
UH-1M	66-15089	0467	7103	1857	7112	2198	341
UH-1C	66-15092	0467	7102	2073	7103	2098	25
UH-1C	66-15094	0467	7101	1254	7103	1321	67
UH-1C	66-15098	0467	6905	706	7006	1407	701
UH-1C	66-15105	0467	6707	0	6801	536	536
UH-1C	66-15106	0467	6707	0	6801	559	559
UH-1C	66-15137	0567	6707	0	7003	1778	1778
UH-1C	66-15138	0567	6707	0	6804	561	561
UH-1C	66-15161	0667	7012	1494	7102	1612	118
UH-1C	66-15162	0667	6803	153	6904	830	677
UH-1C	66-15165	0667	6712	172	6807	743	571
UH-1C	66-15169	0667	7101	2399	7103	2433	34
UH-1M	66-15190	0767	7103	2198	7112	2639	441
UH-1C	66-15201	0867	6803	168	6804	300	132
UH-1C	66-15221	0967	6806	300	6810	570	270
UH-1C	66-15224	0967	6806	305	6902	906	601
UH-1M	66-15242	1167	7103	1556	7112	1981	425
UH-1D	66-16080	0267	6704	1	6801	957	956
UH-1D	66-16100	0267	6804	791	6806	913	122
UH-1H	66-16155	0367	6902	662	6907	1208	546
UH-1H	66-16186	0367	6908	2132	7112	3345	1213
UH-1D	66-16201	0367	6804	516	6805	660	144
UH-1D	66-16235	0467	6706	0	6707	278	278
UH-1H	66-16406	0567	7107	2168	7111	2496	328
UH-1H	66-16511	0667	6903	1211	6903	1335	124
UH-1H	66-16589	0667	6812	495	6902	712	217
UH-1H	66-16651	0767	7103	2641	7110	3334	693
UH-1H	66-16811	0967	6805	277	6811	806	529
UH-1D	66-16863	0967	6802	13	6805	498	485
UH-1D	66-16867	0967	6802	8	6805	359	351
UH-1H	66-16954	1067	6809	360	6905	1122	762
UH-1H	66-17017	1167	6903	255	6904	516	261
UH-1H	66-17036	1167	6901	99	7011	2355	2256
UH-1H	67-17191	0168	7012	2615	7103	3069	454
UH-1D	67-17193	0168	6802	0	6805	534	534
UH-1D	67-17203	0168	6802	0	6802	82	82

UH-1D	67-17209	0168	6802	0	6805	438	438
UH-1D	67-17281	0268	6803	0	6804	112	112
UH-1D	67-17282	0268	6803	0	6804	219	219
UH-1H	67-17359	0368	7008	1734	7102	2341	607
UH-1H	67-17410	0468	6805	2	7103	2334	2332
UH-1H	67-17419	0468	6805	1	6904	1233	1232
UH-1H	67-17421	0468	6805	2	6904	1379	1377
UH-1H	67-17428	0468	6805	0	6903	938	938
UH-1H	67-17430	0468	6805	1	7010	3195	3194
UH-1H	67-17444	0468	6805	1	6808	289	288
UH-1H	67-17445	0468	6806	2	7012	2989	2987
UH-1H	67-17471	0468	6805	0	7104	3368	3368
UH-1H	67-17503	0568	6806	0	7101	2278	2278
UH-1H	67-17512	0568	6806	2	6904	1213	1211
UH-1H	67-17519	0568	6806	2	6901	959	957
UH-1H	67-17521	0568	7105	2739	7111	3278	539
UH-1H	67-17530	0568	6806	2	6808	335	333
UH-1H	67-17540	0568	6806	0	7106	3240	3240
UH-1H	67-17543	0568	6806	2	7011	3091	3089
UH-1H	67-17550	0568	6806	2	6904	1286	1284
UH-1H	67-17566	0668	6807	0	6811	619	619
UH-1H	67-17588	0668	6807	0	7004	2160	2160
UH-1H	67-17718	0868	6809	0	7007	2483	2483
UH-1H	67-17753	0968	6810	0	6905	573	573
UH-1H	68-15215	1268	6901	0	7102	2045	2045
UH-1H	68-15223	1268	6901	0	7104	2833	2833
UH-1H	68-15403	0269	7012	799	7102	856	57
UH-1H	68-15458	0369	7011	1411	7112	2413	1002
UH-1H	68-15463	0369	6904	0	7101	2233	2233
UH-1H	68-15529	0469	6905	0	6905	127	127
UH-1H	68-15531	0469	6905	0	6905	105	105
UH-1H	68-15639	0569	6906	0	7103	2137	2137
UH-1H	68-15644	0569	6906	0	7010	1853	1853
UH-1H	68-15661	0569	6906	0	6910	676	676
UH-1H	68-15671	0569	6906	0	7102	2005	2005
UH-1H	68-15676	0569	6906	0	7112	2763	2763
UH-1H	68-15677	0569	6906	0	7010	1614	1614
UH-1H	68-15680	0569	6906	0	7011	1861	1861
UH-1H	68-16122	0869	7105	1154	7112	1825	671
UH-1H	68-16180	0869	7101	2125	7102	2197	72
UH-1H	68-16225	0969	6910	0	7004	603	603
UH-1H	68-16340	1069	6911	0	7112	1709	1709
UH-1H	68-16573	1269	7105	203	7111	824	621
UH-1H	69-15200	0370	7004	2	7007	439	437
UH-1H	69-15284	0470	7005	0	7102	1057	1057
UH-1H	69-15423	0670	7006	0	7112	1650	1650
UH-1H	69-15516	0770	7008	0	7112	1389	1389
UH-1H	69-15533	0770	7102	506	7107	925	419
UH-1H	69-15730	1070	7011	0	7112	1211	1211
UH-1H	69-15759	1070	7107	505	7107	579	74
UH-1H	69-15763	1070	7011	0	7111	1197	1197
UH-1H	69-15767	1070	7012	0	7104	515	515
UH-1H	69-15768	1070	7105	433	7111	1180	747
UH-1H	69-15783	1070	7011	0	7102	300	300
UH-1H	69-15953	0171	7102	0	7112	685	685
UH-1H	69-15958	0171	7102	0	7111	715	715
UH-1H	69-16650	0171	7103	0	7111	530	530

UH-1H	69-16667	0171	7103	0	7103	108	108
UH-1H	69-16698	0171	7103	0	7111	725	725
UH-1H	69-16716	0271	7103	0	7106	306	306
UH-1H	70-15711	0371	7105	33	7112	342	309

Total helicopters = 164 Total number of hours = 142370

Note: This list only includes helicopters that were in this unit after September 1966. The primary source of this information is the U.S. Army Goldbook. Accuracy is estimated to be about 80% to 95%.

Please send additions or corrections to:

Gary Roush
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Americal Division Magazine - January, 1970

16th CAG Metal Angels Of Hope & Mercy
By SP4 CRAIG COUTURE

16th Cbt. Avn Grp.

Nineteen Hueys cast dark silhouettes against the lava-red South China Sea. The early morning sky was blazed scarlet and clouds formed delicate designs that a carefree mind could mold into anything it fancied. But to a number of men of Americal's 16th Combat Aviation Group (CAG) the significance of their mission left little time for such pleasant diversions.

On this particular morning, 500 infantrymen had to be lifted into an area where the Viet Cong were suspected of hiding. The operation was a fairly large one; there would be two assaults. The first involved carrying over 200 men of the **1st Bn., 6th Inf.**, 198th Inf. Bde. into a valley 15 miles west of Chu Lai. The second was an assault involving more than 300 men from the **1st Bn., 6th Regt., 2nd ARVN Div.** into the same general area.

Gunships approached the LZ first, firing their rockets and miniguns at any suspicious areas. The command and control ship dropped down and marked the LZ with smoke grenades. The smoke ship, affectionately called "Smokey" followed and circled the area with a protective ring of heavy smoke to conceal the approaching troop-carrying "slicks."

Despite small arms fire that kept bursting from the bushes of the surrounding hillsides, both assaults flown by the **176th Avn. Co.** were successful in bringing Americal and ARVN soldiers to the enemy's doorstep.

Providing such air mobility and direct air support for the Americal and 2nd ARVN Div. is only one of many services the 16th CAG renders to allied forces in the I Corps Tactical Zone.

The 16th Group was first activated and organized on Dec. 20, 1967 and became operational on Jan. 23, 1968, at the Marine Marble Mountain Air Facility, DaNang. This was just one week before the 1968 Tet Offensive exploded throughout Vietnam. The 16th Group, as their motto implies, was truly "Born in Battle."

Originally part of the 1st Avn. Bde., the 16th CAG was attached to the Americal Div. on Dec. 1, 1968. Within a week, the Group relocated from Marble Mountain to its present location at Chu Lai. The unit has the distinction of being the only aviation group in the U.S. Army assigned to an infantry division.

(continued 1)

(continued 1) **16th CAG Metal Angels Of Hope & Mercy**

Intent upon carrying out its mission, the **16th CAG**, commanded by COL D. Townsend (Danbury, Neb.), is composed of a Hqs. and Hqs. Co., the 335th Trans. Co., and two battalions: the 14th CAB with units at Duc Pho and Chu Lai, and the 123rd CAB with units in the Chu Lai area.

The 14th Cbt. Avn. Bn. moved to Chu Lai from the Phu Bai Valley in 1967 to support Task Force Oregon. The battalion, commanded by LTC Jerry L. Teague (Alexandria, Va.), is comprised of the [**71st was omitted**] **174th** and **176th** Aslt. Hel. Companies (AHC) and the **132nd** and **178th** Aslt. Spt. Hel. Companies (ASHC).

The **71st** Avn. Co. known as the "Rattlers" arrived in Vietnam in 1964. Three years later, the company moved to Chu Lai with the 196th Inf. Bde. as part of Task Force Oregon and have consistently supported that unit in the Americal's northern area of operations. In recent months, the "Rattlers" have supported the 196th Bde. in numerous operations in the Que Son, Hiep Duc, Phouc Chau, and Phouc Cha Valleys.

Commanded by MAJ William M. Price (Fayetteville, N.C.), the **71st** set an envious record of 25 consecutive months of flying and over 50,000 combat hours without an accident in 1968.

Another unit with an envious safety record is the **174th AHC**, located at Duc Pho. The company has the best accident free record in the Americal Div. with not a single accident in the current fiscal year. The pilots have a combined total of 10,500 accident free flying hours. In that time, the company has carried 75,000 passengers and 2,500 tons of cargo. To the soldier in the field that means a hot meal everyday and a quick trop to the rear when stand-down comes. While compiling its record the **174th** has flown nearly 50,000 sorties, including night combat assaults, "dust-off" missions, and emergency ammo resupply.

Under the leadership of MAJ Virgil E. Blevins (Beeville, Tex.), the **174th** has three flight platoons and boasts a motto of "Nothing Impossible" in carrying out its mission to support the 11th Inf. Bde. The troop-carrying aircraft are called "Dolphins" and the gunships called "Sharks."

To the infantrymen, the sight of the "**Shark**" gunships working out on the enemy while the "**Dolphins**" bring in the much needed ammunition is a vision long remembered. As one infantry officer said, "The Sharks give a morale boost to us and scare the devil out of the enemy. After the Sharks shoot up an area, you can count on it being quiet the rest of the night.

(continued 2)

(continued 2) **16th CAG Metal Angels Of Hope & Mercy**

Another constant source of support for troops on the ground are the "Minutemen" of the **176th AHC** commanded by MAJ O.R. Hite (Staunton, Va.). Since 1967, the **176th** has been supporting the 198th Inf. Bde.

During August 1969, aviators of the **176th** averaged 94 flying hours and was awarded the Americal Accident Prevention Award for the month.

To provide tactical air movement of combat, combat support, and combat service support units in the Americal area of operations is the mission of the **132nd ASHC**. The company, commanded by MAJ William Jones (Glendall, Calif.), started operations with its Boeing-Vertol CH-47B Chinooks in May 1968. Since then the **"Hercules"** Chinooks of the **132nd** fly an average of 1,000 hours a month lifting over 10,000 passengers and over 5,000 tons of supplies. Their motto of "Versatility, Reliability, and Endurance" describes the support the **132nd** gives daily to the Americal.

Invaluable support is also given to the combat soldier by the **178th ASHC** commanded by MAJ Robert W. Parker (Secane, Pa.). The **"Boxcars"** arrived in Vietnam in April 1966 and moved to Chu Lai as part of Task Force Oregon.

The **178th** have to their credit the distinction of being the first unit to move a complete 155mm howitzer battery in one lift. Once the troops are safely in a combat area, it is up to the "Hercules" Chinooks to keep them supplied and combat ready.

123rd Cbt. Avn. Bn., like its sister battalion, provides air mobility and direct air support to elements of the Americal Div. The battalion, led by LTC Richard K. Dietsch (Manchester, N.H.), prides itself on the professionalism and consciousness in supporting the division. The battalion is comprised of **A and B Companies; Hqs. and Hqs. Co. E Co., 723rd Maint. Bn; F Trp. 8th Cav; and D Trp., 1st Sqdn., 1st Cav.**

Providing the Americal with general aviation support is the primary mission of A Co., 123rd CAB. While B Co. essentially has the role of an air cavalry troop. Man of **B Co.'s** missions are visual reconnaissance operations in which a team of four aircraft, one Light Observation Helicopter (LOH), two Cobra gunships, and one Huey "slick" with five infantrymen aboard search an assigned area for signs of enemy activity. During the past year, B Co. accounted for 429 enemy kills.

(continued 3)

(continued 3) **16th CAG Metal Angels Of Hope & Mercy**

Known as the "Blue Ghost," F Trp. 8th Cav. arrived in Vietnam in October, 1967. Commanded by MAJ Charles E. Ivey (Urbana, Ill.), F Trp. has the primary mission of gathering intelligence. The unit accomplishes this by means of aerial and ground reconnaissance making maximum use of its firepower, communications, and mobility.

An organic infantry platoon, nicknamed the "Blues," is used for insertions to perform detailed searches of an area. Normally with the insertion of the "Blues" the aerial recon teams consisting of two Cobras and a LOH, screen in the immediate vicinity and provide armed escort for the platoon.

A newcomer to the 16th Group is **D Trp., 1st Sqdn., 1st Cav.,** who arrived in Vietnam on May 1, 1969. D Trp., called the **"Sabres,"** extends the reconnaissance and security capabilities of ground units by aerial means. To find the enemy, fix his position, and then annihilate him is the mission of the **"Sabres."**

Providing the Americal with aircraft direct support maintenance is **E Co., 723rd Maint. Bn.** The job of this unit like that of the **335th Trans. Co.** is to support and help maintain the aviation units assigned to the Americal.

The officers and men of the **16th CAG** pride themselves on the ability to do their jobs well regardless of any difficulties. With courage and determination and the professional competence of its subordinate units, the **16th CAG** supports the Americal in I Corps.

The following section will include articles from the Americal Division's weekly newspaper, "The Southern Cross" that reference the 174th Aviation Company. The first issue was published in May 1968 and the final issue was in the fall of 1971. The newspapers were usually eight pages with cartoons and world events included. Approximately 118 issues have been located with perhaps 40 that are still missing. Nearly 50 of these newspapers had a photo or article referencing the 174th AHC.

Southern Cross Newspaper:

Vol. 1, No. 3 CHU LAI, VIETNAM July, 17 1968

Photo Caption-Churns Dust

A 174th Avn. Co. helicopter churns up dust while on a resupply mission for the 11th Inf. Bde. (Photo by PFC Robert Short, 11th Inf. Bde.)

Churns Dust

A 174th Avn. Co. helicopter churns up dust while on a resupply mission for the 11th Inf. Bde. (Photo by PFC Robert Short, 11th Inf. Bde.)

Page 6

Southern Cross Newspaper
01Aug68-Southern Cross Vol. 1 No. 4. Page 1
'Warriors' Rob Night From VC'

LZ BRONCO-The 11th Inf. Bde. "Jungle Warriors" are not satisfied with leaving the night to the Viet Cong.

The men of the 3rd Bn., 1st Inf., decided the best time to catch the enemy is at night, when his guard is down.

Intelligence sources had indicated that the village of Van Truong, four miles north of Duc Pho, was being used as a "safe haven" for enemy snipers and demolitions men working along Highway 1.

Just Before Sunset

Following the principle that had proven itself in their fast, hard-hitting daytime assaults, 2LT Henry Hill of Anoka, Minn., loaded his Co. B platoon aboard the choppers for the combat assault just before sunset.

The men formed a cordon east of the village as "Shark" gunships from the **174th Avn. Co.** and the battalion's command and control helicopter cut off escape routes on the remaining three sides.

Hunt For Enemy

"As we set up our positions we were joined by the Vietnamese who had served as intelligence sources for the operation, and by two teams from the 59th Scout Dog Plat.," said Hill.

"Together we moved towards the village, hunting for camouflaged spider holes and tunnels."

As the platoon moved into the village from the east, the Viet Cong hiding there fled toward the west. Nine enemy were killed by the waiting gunships and nine suspects were detained.

01Aug68-Southern Cross Vol. 1 No. 4. Page 4-5 full page spread

11th 'Jungle Warriors' Battle Enemy In Southern Quang Ngai

LZ BRONCO--June marked the halfway point of the 11th Inf. Bde.'s first year in Vietnam.

The past seven months have seen the "Jungle Warriors" hit the enemy hard and often, both in major battalion-sized operations and in the slow but steady attrition of daily sweeps through his area.

The soldiers of the brigade have killed more than 1,500 of the enemy, including 15 North Vietnamese regulars, and have captured more than 1,450 individual rifles, pistols, carbines and sub-machineguns, and 39 crew-served mortars and machineguns.

Viet Cong supply lines have also been hurt. Combat sweeps through the brigade's area of operations from Binh Son in the north to Sa Huynh in the south, east from the South China Sea to the western mountains, have yielded 82 tons of captured Communist rice and 178.5 tons of salt, hidden in secret supply caches.

The first major operation undertaken in this area was Operation Muscatine by the men of the **4th Bn., 3rd Inf.,** when the "Old Guard" occupied LZ Sue near Quang Ngai last Jan. 10, taking over from the 198th Inf. bde. and the 3rd Bde., 4th Inf. Div.

They were soon reinforced by Task Force Barker, a unit composed of three rifle companies, one from each battalion in the brigade.

Operation Muscatine involved some of the largest encounters with the Viet Cong in the "Warriors" fledgling history. In March, Task Force Barker troops twice engaged a Viet Cong battalion near the village My Lai on the coast east of Quang Ngai, and killed a total of 196 enemy soldiers.

When Task Force Barker was disbanded after 78 days, it had accounted for 401 of the 1,000-plus enemy killed in the six months of fighting in the Muscatine area.

In early April, the "Old Guard" starred again during Operation Norfolk Victory, uncovering a cache of more than 120 weapons and 1,000 pounds of explosives-the largest single cache yet captured by brigade forces.

This same operation saw the soldiers of the **1st Bn., 20th Inf.** "Sykes" Regulars" kill 27 Viet Cong and capture more than 125 crew-served and individual weapons, as well as 3,000 pounds of explosives.

The battalion later distinguished itself in the battle for Nui Hoac ridge, when two its companies were assigned to the 196th Inf. Bde. in Operation Wheeler/Wallowa action near Tam Ky.

The "Regulars" were also instrumental in the sinking of an enemy trawler off the coast near Duc Pho last March, when they made a forced night march to the beach to trap the ship as it was chased ashore by Navy swiftboats and gunship helicopters of the 174th Avn Co.

The crew of the trawler was forced to scuttle its ship, destroying an estimated 3,000 individual weapons.

The 3rd Bn., 1st Inf. has seen some of the hardest day-to-day fighting of any brigade unit, locating and killing enemy groups attempting to infiltrate the Mo Duc-Duc Pho area. The "Always First" played a major part in Operation Chattahoochee Swamp, when 25 enemy were killed and 17 weapons captured in the dense jungles southwest of Quang Ngai.

In April, the **4th Bn., 21st Inf.** "Gimlets" arrived in Vietnam and have since been operating in the southern sector of the brigade's area of operations. To date, they have captured more than 100 tons of enemy salt and rice.

(Continued 1)

(Continued 1) **11th 'Jungle Warriors' Battle Enemy In Southern Quang Ngai**

In all operations, the brigade's infantrymen have been able to rely on quick, accurate and devastating fire by the "On Time" 6th Bn., 11th Arty., with its 105mm howitzer batteries spread throughout the brigade area. The unit was especially effective during the two battles of My Lai, when its fast-firing cannoneers blasted nearly 100 of the total kills.

"Sharks and Dolphins" of the 174th Avn Co. at LZ Bronco, and the brigade's own Primo Aviation Ltd. have done yeomen's work throughout the campaigns, flying troops to combat, flying cover with their gunships, finding the enemy through day and night reconnaissance missions and picking up the wounded from the battlefield.

On July 1, the "Jungle Warriors" second anniversary, COL Oran K. Henderson, brigade commander, asked the men of his command to "meet the challenges of the future with the brigade with the brigade's traditional gallantry, devotion and unselfishness."

Story And Photos
by
11th Inf. Bde.

Photo Captions...

1. **Soldier Searches For Enemy Weapons.** (Soldier using mine detector checks straw piles).
2. **Task Force Barker Medic Treats Wounded as Chopper is Called.** (Soldier with bandaged foot is being treated around the face).
3. **3rd Bn., 1st Inf. Soldier Guides In Chopper.**
4. **APC's Form Up On Access Road Leading Out Of LZ Liz.**
5. **Brigade Dentist Dentist Holds Dentcap.** (Vietnamese assistant hold army flashlight while dentist (Maj) examines Vietnamese woman's beetle -nut blackened teeth.)
6. **4th Bn., 21st Inf. Soldiers Wind Through Hills.**

3rd Bn., 1st Inf. Soldier Guides In Chopper

'Always First' Kills 18 VC

Eighteen Viet Cong were killed by two companies of the 11th Bde.'s **3rd Bn., 1st Inf.** recently during fighting in a heavily wooded area 10 miles south of Quang Ngai City.

The "Always First" battalion had been receiving intelligence reports of enemy activity in the area and, recalling the numerous attacks on Quang Ngai earlier in the year, they launched a combat assault.

D Co., led by CPT Frank W. Koleszar, landed in the woods just north of the suspected VC hideout, while A Co., commanded by CPT Paul C. Place, waited along the Ve River to the south, acting as a blocking force.

Kill Two, Uncover Cache

As D Co.'s lead element began forming a cordon, two VC were surprised and killed while walking along a trail. A search of the vicinity uncovered a tunnel complex containing nine Chicom 60mm mortar rounds and a collection of dynamite blasting caps, and other explosives.

Meanwhile another element of the company's 2nd Plt. had set up a blocking force on the east side fo the woods when LTC Henry I. Lowder, Bn. CO, spotted some VC from his helicopter. The enemy was quickly routed leaving behind and AK-47, field pack, camouflaged poncho containing medical supplies and other equipment and ordnance.

LTC Lowder then saw a number of VC moving around the west end of D Co.'s 3rd Plt. He called Co. A across the river and they sent their 1st and 2nd Plts. to meet the enemy.

Zap Sapper Commander

SGT David S. Orndorff, acting 1st Plt. leader, spotted two VC in the tall grass and called for them to stop. They began to run, and then nine other VC suddenly joined them in flight. "They didn't have a chance to shoot at us," Orndorff noted, "we killed six of them."

A search of the bodies revealed an RPG-7 rocket launcher, an AK-47, an SKS rifle and a Chicom pistol. Numerous maps and documents were found on the body of one VC, which identified him as the 506th Sapper Company (A) Commander. According to an entry in the dead CO's notebook, his company contained 41 personnel.

While elements of the "Always First" battalion were battling the enemy on the ground, "Shark" gunships from the **174th Avn. Co.** were flying air support, guarding open areas from evading VC and helping where they could in the fighting. "Shark" gunners accounted for six of the enemy kills.

RTO Finds One More

When the action slowed down, D Co.'s 1st Plt. settled down to eat lunch. But the RTO was not quite satisfied and continued to search the area. Suddenly he noticed a foot sticking out of the bushes. He checked it out and found another dead VC with two AK-47 magazines on him.

After three hours of fighting, 3rd of the 1st soldiers counted 18 Viet Cong bodies in the ara. The list of captured weapons included two Ak-47's, two SKS rifles, an M-2 carbine, a pistol, and a rocket launcher with rockets.

10Nov68-Southern Cross Vol. 1 No. 11 Centerfold Page 4-5
The Fighting 14th
Busy 'Birds'

Photo Captions-
1 - (Chinook from the, "Boxcars", 178th ASHC carrying a water trailer to an LZ) **Photo credit - SP5 John Stanton, 3d Bn., 16th Arty.**
2 - After a 'hook's' rotor is repaired it carries cargo to the field. (Photos 1-2 must share the caption.) Three men are working on a "Boxcars", 178th ASHC Chinook" back at their base at Chu Lai.
3 - (Three Slicks coming in to land over a treeline. A gunship is following them much higher up.) **Photo Credit - SP4 Patrick F. Doyle, 14th Avn. Bn.**
4 - (A SP4 in flight helmet looks anxiously out of a helicopter with his M-16 at the ready.)
5 - (Photo of a "Rattler" 71st AHC helicopter being marshalled into a landing in an open area.) **Photo Credit - SP5 David L. Tyler, 523rd Sig. Bn. Caption- From a flight engineer's aerial observation to resupply to LRP extraction, the 'fighting 14th' runs the gamut in supporting ground troops.** (Photos 4 & 5 & 6 share the caption).
6 - (Photo of a LRP being extracted on a McGuire rig? Perspective is looking up. from the ground)
7 - Caption - 'Slicks' constantly undergo checks and rechecks before taking off for combat support missions. Photo credit - SP4 Patrick F. Doyle, 14th Avn. Bn. (Appears that a P.E. maintenance team is working on the main rotor head of a 'slick'. The helicopter's tail is part way in a tent hanger.)
8 - (A flight of three slicks) Photo credit: SP5 David L. Tyler, 523rd Sig. Bn.
9 - A flight of twelve slicks with one gunship flying in formation. The angle is looking back at the flight that is following from a little bit higher altitude.

(Continued 1)

(Continued 1) The Fighting 14th Busy "Birds"

10Nov68-Southern Cross Vol. 1 No. 11 Centerfold Page 4-5

Throughout the skies above the I Corps Tactical Zone aircraft of the 14th Cbt. Avn. Bn. are giving direct and general combat support to the Americal Div. and other select units.

Under the command of both the 1st Avn. Bde. at Long Binh and the 16th Cbt. Avn. Grp. at Da nang, the "Fighting 14th" is composed of three assault helicopter companies: the 71st, **174th** and 176th; and two assault support helicopter companies: the 132nd and 178th.

The "Arab Battalion" came to Vietnam in 1964 to provide primarily fixed wing aviation support, but evolved into a strictly helicopter battalion while engaged in activities near Qui Nhon in 1966.

In April, 1967, the unit was sent to southern I Corps to support the newly formed Task Force Oregon. It immediately occupied unprepared tactical sites in the Chu Lai area and sent its craft skyward in aerial support.

In carrying out their mission the men of the 14th, under the command of LTC Charles A. Klopp, have established an outstanding record for fast, reliable response to any situation that calls them to action.

The majority of the 14th's support activities consist of resupply missions which carry food, water, ammunition and various types of equipment to the men in the field. These are the "birds" that bring out beer, soda, ice cream, and the mail from home. They also give that ride to Chu Lai everyone dreams about for the long awaited trip back to the world.

Direct combat support can be considered an everyday mission at the 14th--but seldom routine. Each combat assault, emergency resupply under fire, or medical evacuation presents a dangerous challenge. In addition to the constant threat of enemy ground fire and anti-aircraft positions, the pilots must be prepared to overcome the hazards of terrain here in the southern I Corps.

The 71st Assault Helicopter Co., under the command of MAJ Dehne W. McGinnis, has established the highest safety record of any helicopter company in Vietnam. In addition to their outstanding safety record the "Firebird" gunships and "Rattler" slicks of the 71st have accounted for the capture of numerous enemy weapons and supplies being transported by sampans on the waterways which lace the area of operations.

(Continued 2)

10Nov68-Southern Cross Vol. 1 No. 11 Centerfold Page 4-5

The **174th Assault Helicopter Co**., commanded by MAJ Richard A. Brown, bears the responsibility of supporting the 11th Inf. Bde. in the Duc Pho area. The "Jungle Warriors" rely on the **174th** for safe and timely insertions and extractions and for the potent firepower of the "Shark" gunships when they need instantaneous close combat support.

The 238 enemy body count recorded by the "Sharks" on Jan. 30, 1968, is proof of their savage capability. The number of extractions, medivacs and resupply missions accomplished by the men of the 174th under intense enemy fire gives life to their unit's motto, "Nothing Impossible."

MAJ Richard G. Adamski, commanding officer of the 176th Assault Helicopter Co., pilots one of the finest aviation units in Vietnam. The "Musket" gunships and "Minutemen" slicks are known throughout the I Corps for their outstanding combat support.

The recent conflict near Quang Ngai and the action in the Hue-Phu Bai area were marked by countless examples of the courage and professionalism of the pilots and crew members of the 176th and their "Can Do" attitude.

The 132nd Assault Spt. Helicopter Co. arrived in Vietnam in May, 1968, becoming the battalion's newest unit. Under the command of MAJ Carl O. Johnson, the men of the "Hercules" unit have been quick to adapt to the demands of the tactical situation. In this short period of time they have established a record of excellent service with the units they support.

The 178th Assault Spt. Helicopter Co., commanded by MAJ Morris M. Jessup has the distinction of being the first fully operational CH-47B "Chinook" helicopter unit in Vietnam. Since their arrival in Chu Lai in April, 1967, the men of the 178th have earned both the Presidential and the Meritorious Unit Citations in recognition of their achievements.

'Shark' Ships Stop
VC Rocket Threats

LZ BRONCO -- Four "Shark" gunships of the **174th Aslt. Hel. Co**. killed 50 VC in two significant incidents near Duc Pho during the post-TET offensive.

"Shark" action started in early-morning when WO1 John Pennington (Newark, Ohio) spotted rocket and mortar flashes from his perch atop a high hill in the middle of the 11th Bde. headquarters at LZ Bronco.

Airstrip Imperiled

Pennington called artillery on the flash points, but the "Sharks" remained atop and at the foot of the hill where they waited to scramble as a reactionary force.

Their work day began in earnest at 5 a.m. when a large VC force threatened Duc Pho airstrip.

Heading quickly west, four "Sharks" caught the VC in the open and killed 23 before pulling off to refuel and rearm.

In addition to Pennington, the other pilots were WO1 Ellsworth Beebe (Tiffin, Ohio), WO1 William Cooper (Huddleston, Va.), and WO1 Robert Thomas (Birmingham, Ala.).

Obliterate Launch Site

At approximately 9 a.m. on the same day, rocket launches were spotted from LZ Liz six miles northwest of Duc Pho.

Artillery fire in the area was impossible because an Americal patrol was nearby.

On arrival, the "Sharks" caught a large VC group at the launch site before it could reach the cover of a well-fortified bunker nearby.

Despite ground fire, the "Sharks" killed 27 VC and destroyed 20 huts in the area to silence the intruders.

Combat In Review

PSYOP Broadcasters Irk VC,
Provoke Hail Of Angry Bullets

DUC PHO -- An Americal PSYOP team which recently tried to make the VC hit parade with Chieu Hoi music almost met a violent end to their disk jockey careers.

Broadcasting Vietnamese music from their sound truck, SGT Gary Taylor (Oak Lawn, Ill.) and SP4 Patrick Fleming (St. Paul, Minn.), members of HB-9 broadcast team, 3rd Det., 7th PSYOP Bn., were driving down Highway 1 three miles north of Duc Pho when they heard a barrage of fire behind them.

The turned their truck around and headed for a spot along the road where 20 Regional Forces (RFs) soldiers were engaged in a fire fight with a VC force.

Facing their truck at the fire, the Americal pair began broadcasting their Chieu Hoi message as they and the RFs moved out against the enemy, receiving heavy cross fire.

Amidst a blaze of bullets, Taylor then moved back to his vehicle to call in support. In a matter of minutes "Shark" gunships from the 174th Aslt. Hel. Co. and a track from **E Trp., 1st Sqdn., 1st Cav.** were on the scene, their supporting fire squelching the enemy's efforts and freeing the PSYOP team.

"I guess they didn't like the music we were playing," said Fleming.

Irish Charm Saves
Flyboy From Harm

DUC PHO -- For a Huey helicopter pilot named O'Sullivan, the "luck of the Irish" is a reality, especially when he is flying the unfriendly skies of Vietnam.

But what kind of luck is it when he has been hit by enemy fire 18 times in six months and forced to land on five of those dubious occasions?

"Good luck," says WO1 John I. O'Sullivan (Brooklyn, N.Y.), a pilot with the **174th Aslt. Hel. Co.** in Duc Pho. "After all, I've only been wounded once."

O'Sullivan, who came to the United States in 1960 from Ireland with his parents, still retains his Irish citizenship.

O'Sullivan's "luck" began to show itself on his fire day in Vietnam when his helicopter received hostile fire west of LZ Liz and crashed.

"We were hit with small arms fire and grenade frags," he said. "When we tried to fly out of the area we lost power and went down."

O'Sullivan has been recommended on three different occasions for the Distinguished Flying Cross and once for the Soldier's Medal, proving his willingness to take necessary risks. St. Patrick would be proud.

Swoop Down In Heavy Fire

Heroic Pilots Rescue Wounded

By SP4 TONY SWINDELL 11th Inf. Bde.

LZ BRONCO--Two Americal chopper pilots braved heavy enemy fire and miserable weather conditions to organize and direct the rescue of wounded members of an ambushed infantry company south of LZ Cork.

1LT Earl Ingram II (Columbus, Ga.) and WO Richard C. Chichowski (Westfield, Mass.) UH-1 pilots with the **174th Aslt. Hel Co.**, supporting the 11th Inf. Bde., were flying the **3rd Bn., 1st Inf**. Command and Control (C&C) ship on routine missions off LZ cork.

Suddenly, the radio blared that B Co. had been ambushed near a village by an estimated 100 enemy soldiers.

Direct Medevacs

After the C&C ship arrived at the scene, approaching medevacs radioed 1LT Ingram for landing instructions, but a pick-up zone (PZ) had not been established yet because of intense enemy fire.

As soon as word reached 1LT Ingram and Cichowski that the PZ was set up, they directed their 11th Bde. craft in to evacuate five wounded soldiers.

Later in the afternoon, one of the companies pushed into the village and called for a dust-off to pick up a seriously wounded man.

As the medevac was about to land at the PZ, intense enemy fire caused it to crash.

C&C To Rescue

Another medevac was hit repeatedly and forced to withdraw.

1LT Ingram and Cichowski then swooped into the pick-up zone despite the heavy fire, secured the wounded soldier, evacuated him to the hospital, and headed back to the action.

"We were flying in some of the most miserable weather I've seen over here," Cichowski commented, "and decided to head home since we had done all we could that day.

"But then we got a call from one of the units who had a man who couldn't last the night unless he was evacuated."

As 1LT Ingram and Cichowski circled the now-burning village, they tried to spot the landing signals put out for them, but the scattered fires complicated the mission.

"They were trying to bring us in with flashlights and burning sticks," 1LT Ingram said, "and it was almost impossible to find them for the fires.

"As low as we were coming in I Was sure that our rotor blades were going to hit a tree."

Bullets Riddle Ship

Cichowski made a perfect landing on the pick-up spot, but when the craft touched down a sniper opened up from 20 meters away.

Bullets crashed into the rotor blades, engine, and hit the armor plating on 1LT Ingram's cockpit seat. A radio telephone operator informed the lieutenant that the rounds were outgoing, to which the officer replied, "Tell that to my armor plate."

Accomplish Mission

After withdrawing until another pick-up zone could be established, the chopper team repeated their hazardous low-level approach and successfully evacuated the wounded man.

Chichowski had nothing but praise for his fellow pilot:

"1LT Ingram organized and directed four "Shark" gunships, two medevac aircraft, a recovery ship for the downed medevac, and the C&C ship. He really did a fine job."

CHOPPER GETS REAL TEST

DUC PHO- A test pilot of the **174th Aslt. Hel. Co.,** which supports the 11th Inf. Bde., recently performed an emergency Medevac while on a routine test flight.

WO1 Thomas Reinshagen (Columbus, GA.) was flying in the traffic pattern at LZ Bronco when his crew chief, SP5 James Simmons (Houston) alerted him to an explosion on Highway 1 approximately a half-mile north of here.

"I couldn't tell what it was from 200 feet, so I broke out of traffic and made a low pass," said WOI Reinshagen. "I could see that a bulldozer had overturned after hitting a mine. I saw two men lying in the road and went in to pick them up."

After landing on the highway, the chopper crew loaded the two engineers and sped them to medical aid. Neither was hurt seriously. (11th Bde. IO)

Photo Caption: A Toothy Fellow

Flashing its fierce grin, a "Shark" helicopter of the **174th Aslt. Hel. Co.** prowls the skies above Duc Pho. See story on page 8. (Photo by SP4 Rodney Preuss, 11th Bde. IO) (Tail number on this UH-1C gunship ends in #224)

A Toothy Fellow

Flashing its fierce grin, a "Shark" helicopter of the 174th Aslt. Hel. Co. prowls the skies above Duc Pho. See story on page 8. (Photo by SP4 Rodney Preuss, 11th Bde. IO)

UH-1C 66-15224 0967 6806 305 6902 906 601 was manufactured in September 1967. Joined the 174th AHC in June 1968 with 305 hours total time. Left the unit 906 hours total time, for a net of 601 hours flight time with the 174th.

13Apr69-Southern Cross Vol. 2 No. 08 Page 8

FISH TALES ABOUND

LZ BRONCO - Some of the fishiest stories of the war are now being passed around by crews of the **174th Aslt. Hel. Co**.

The gunships, with their large teeth on their noses are Sharks, while supply ships are the more docile Dolphins.

Light observation choppers are Guppies armed with machineguns. Tack on a minigun, and the LOH becomes a Piranha after the meat-eating fish. (11th Bde. IO)

Combat In Review

Rangers Drop Right Into Enemy Camp

THINGS GOT PRETTY HOT

By SP4 DALE REICH

LZ BRONCO--"As soon as we got off the chopper, we saw Fresh bunkers and knew we were in the middle of an enemy base camp."

That's how SP4 Larry Mosley (Sutter, Calif.) remembers a recent insertion made by his Ranger team of **G Co., 75th Inf.**

Working with the 11th Inf. Bde., the Ranger team had been dropped seven miles southwest of Duc Pho where it encountered the base camp.

After leaving the insertion ship, the Rangers headed for a trail some 150 meters away to call in their position. SP4 Mosley and a Fellow Ranger left the position to recon the area

Alert

The two Americal soldiers turned up 20 freshly-dug bunkers and two camouflaged hootches. Making mental notes of numerous enemy positions, they were unaware of activity several meters away.

A squad of enemy soldiers, dressed in khaki uniforms and carrying AK-47 and SKS rifles was moving down a trail toward the other Rangers.

"I saw movement about 30 meters away," said SP4 George H. Sisson (Niagara Falls, N.Y.). "Suddenly they moved into the bushes and began sweeping on line toward us. They knew we were in the area but couldn't see us.

Getaway

"I saw at least 10 of them. I held up my rifle to alert the other men, and we were soon ready to initiate contact."

When the enemy soldiers had come within about 10 meters of the Ranger position, the Americal soldiers opened fire and immediately killed four of the insurgents. The others ran for cover. "We think we wounded several more, but things got pretty hot and we had to head for cover ourselves" said Sp4 Sisson. The Rangers were extracted with help from "Shark" gunships of the **174th Aslt. Hel. Co.** which put suppressive fire on enemy positions.

Before leaving, the team confirmed the four enemy kills and picked up an SKS rifle. **(11th IO)**

Decorated for Some Gunship Mission

FIVE PILOTS WIN DFC

CHU LAI---Five pilots of the 174th Aslt. Hel. Co. have been awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross for exceptional heroism in suppressing an enemy ground attack last Nov. 17.

Cited were WO1 Robert E. Thomas (Birmingham, Ala.), 1LT Robert R. Gamber Jr. (Philadelphia), 1LT Geoffrey J. Buckley (Alexandria, Va), CW2 James R Rawlings and WO1 Eugene D. Nowak.

Top Help

The five gunship pilots were called to action when LZ Snoopy and a nearby South Vietnamese Army installation came under fierce enemy rocket and mortar fire and a ground attack. The pilots flew through heavy rain and darkness,
quickly pinpointed hostile positions on arrival, and engaged a large VC force.

BEATEN

Spotting an enemy mortar emplacement, the gunships made repeated attacks on the position but were repelled by intense hostile fire. On the fourth try, the position was destroyed In the continuing engagement the five pilots placed suppressive fire on the advancing enemy force and inflicted numerous casualties. The gunships remained in the area for over 3 1/2 hours until the attack was crushed.

(Americal IO)

Combat In Review

SAPPER ASSAULT BRIDGE REPULSED BY 11TH, APC BRIDGE

Duc Pho--An NVA sapper squad under the cover of darkness and protected by a squad of snipers, attacked bridge 95, one mile north of San Huynh.

The squad armed with homemade grenades from discarded beer and C-ration cans, satchel charges and RPGs, assaulted the bridge guarded by two squads from the second platoon of **C Co., 1st Bn., 20th Inf**, 11th Inf. Bde.

Enemy Blasts Bunker

"I was sleeping on top of the bunker when all hell broke loose, SP4 Roger Voyles (Plainview, Texas). "About twenty homemade grenades were thrown on top of our bunker."

After getting inside the bunker the "Sykes Regulars" then were hit by RPGs.

"The rockets and grenades started both inside and outside of the bunker on fire so we left and ran under the bridge where it was harder for the snipers to see us," said SP4 Rosoling Pizzillo (North Arlington. N.J.) a squad leader.

Cav. To Rescue

Fighting continued until the 2nd plt. of C Co. arrived on the APCs of **E Trp., 1st Cav.** The wounded were evacuated and the remaining men were supplied with ammo.

For the rest of the night, gun and flare ships of the **174th Aslt. Hel. Co.** provided the men on the bridge with illumination and protection.

"All the men kept calm throughout the fight and they all helped turn away a well planned NVA attack." said SGT John Wrigley (Decatur, ILL.), the weapons squad leader of the platoon. (11th IO)

Luck O' Irish Again Prevails
For O' Sullivan: Shamrock, DFC

CHU LAI--Weaving his helicopter through dense fog and heavy fire, a Brooklyn pilot demonstrated the luck of the Irish once again.

WO1 John O'Sullivan was serving as a pilot of the command and control helicopter of the **4th Bn., 21st Inf.,** 11th Inf. Bde. when the unit came under attack.

As the battle progressed, one soldier was felled by an extreme case of battle fatigue, and a dustoff was called.

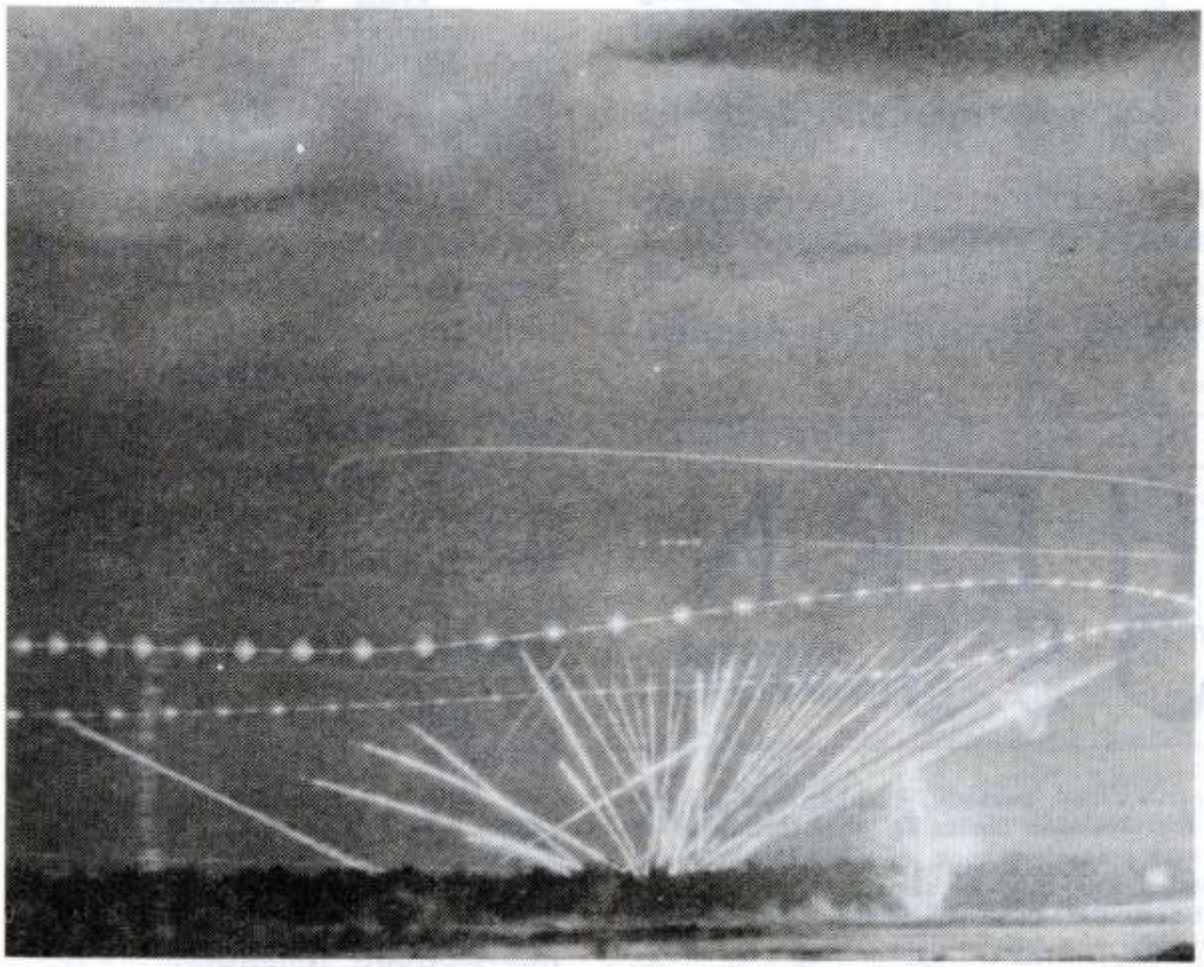
Because of the inclement weather and hostile fire the three attempts to evacuate the casualty by chopper were unsuccessful. Disregarding all danger, O'Sullivan volunteered to attempt the evacuation.

With a thorough knowledge of the area and skillful maneuvering of his craft he dropped onto a hastily prepared landing zone and picked up the man.

For his action O'Sullivan, assigned to the **174th Avn. Co.,** 14th CAB, received the Distinguished Flying Cross. (AMERICAL IO)

Photo Caption: Night Encounter

"Shark" gunships from the 174th Aslt. Hel. Co. engage VC position beyond perimeter of LZ Bronco during recent enemy attacks. Time exposure was used to record the paths of the fiery tracers. (Photo by SP4 Steve Tipton, 11th Bde. IO) (Note: this is a pretty impressive night time display)



Night Encounter

"Shark" gunships from the 174th Aslt. Hel. Co. engage VC position beyond perimeter of LZ Bronco during recent enemy attacks. Time exposure was used to record the paths of the fiery tracers. (Photo by SP4 Steve Tipton, 11th Bde. IO)

June 22, 1969

Combat IN Review

1-20 Bridge Toll Too Costly

NVA Night Fighters Repelled

DUC PHO - The soldiers of the 11th Bde. responded to a call when **A Co., 1st Bn., 20th Inf.** came under heavy fire while guarding a bridge six miles north of here.

The squad bridge guard was hit by NVA soldiers who under the cover of heavy small arms fire, RPGs, and Chicom grenades cut the concertina wire and moved towards the bridge defense.

"I was in the TOC when we received a message from the men on the bridge saying that they were under attack and additional troops and supporting fire were needed immediately," said SGT Donald A Troops (Novi, Mich.).

Gunships of the **174th Aslt. Hel. Co.** rushed to LZ Liz where the "Sykes Regulars" were being given last minute instruction by their platoon leaders, 1LT Stephen T. Meyering (Rochester, N.Y.) and 1LT Edward J. Durana Jr. (Hyattsville, Md.).

While support preparations were underway on the LZ the men on the bridge had their hands full. The first heavy barrage of enemy fire pinned the men down and each shot was countered with RPGs and small arms fire.

PFC Charles P. Payne (Pittsburgh) a medic, who was pinned in the bunker at the south end of the bridge and was unable to cross to give aid to the wounded men on the other end, began calling in and adjusting mortar fire.

"We were dropped 200 meters north of the bridge and drew a heavy volume of small arms fire from the NVA who had manned the fighting positions at the north end of the bridge.

"We laid down a base of fire and maneuvered into position to block any retreating NVA, and got to the ones firing at us," explained 1LT Meyering.

When the firing had stopped six NVA had been killed and four AK-47 rifles were captured. The documents on one dead NVA identified him as an officer.

The combined efforts of the infantrymen and the pilots turned a sneak attack into defeat for the luckless NVA. (11th IO)

Call Him Mister No More

DUC PHO--The next time you call that mister "mister", you had better look twice--he's liable to be a sir!

The most recent Americal soldier to take advantage of the USARV direct commission program is former Warrant Officer Geoffrey R. Smith of 14th Avn. Bn.'s **174th Assault Hel. Co**.

A onetime "slick" aircraft commander and "Shark" gunship pilot, brand-new 2LT Smith is now assistant operations officer of the 14th.

"First I came to fly," said the erstwhile mister, "but I felt that by taking a commission I could make better use of my potential both in Army administration and the expanding Army Aviation program."

Upon DEROS in July, 2LT Smith will attend the Transportation Officer Basic Course at Ft. Eustis, Va. (16 CAG IO)

Photo Caption: Check The Oil, Sir?

Due to a severe lack of authorized service stations in the Americal area, this chopper pilot from the **174th Aslt. Hel. Co.** must clean his own windshield during a lull in the action in 515 Valley. The "Sharks" were operating in support of the **4th Bn., 21st Inf.** (Photo by SP4 Rod Preuss, 11th Bde. IO)

Check The Oil, Sir?

Due to a severe lack of authorized service stations in the Americal area, this chopper pilot from the 174th Aslt. Hel. Co. must clean his own windshield during a lull in the action in 515 Valley. The "Sharks" were operating in support of the 4th Bn., 21st Inf. (Photo by SP4 Rod Preuss, 11th Bde. IO)

Combat In Review

BAMBOO CURTAIN CRUSHED

LZ BRONCO-- In a recent day-long battle six miles west of here. an old fallow rice paddy became the graveyard for 15 NVA soldiers who fell under an onslaught from soldiers of the 11th Inf. Bde.

Soldiers of **D Co., 3rd Bn., 1st Inf.,** had been on search and clear operations in the area for several days when an early morning mortar attack on their night laager position triggered a counter-attack.

Clash With Enemy

Leaving their positions, D Co. moved out in search of the enemy, sweeping through hedgerows and dense brush, until they emerged into an open field where they met fierce resistance.

CPT John S. Walker (Wakefield, R.I.), battalion operations S-3, described what immediately confronted the company. "The NVA were in a trenchline between two open fields with bamboo around the trench. They were equipped with a machinegun, an RPG-7, AK-47s, an AK-50, and they- weren't sparing their ammunition!'

With nothing but the stumps for cover, the company moved forward on line until forced to halt as the enemy beat out a steady-tattoo of automatic weapons fire.

Jack-In-The-Box

"I was within 10 feet of that bamboo thicket and I still couldn't locate their positions," recalled PFC James A. Skapara (Boston). "Then all of a sudden, a camouflaged trap door to a spider hole' popped open, a burst was fired--and down went the lid."

Meanwhile, B Co, moved west, forming a cordon around the well-entrenched enemy. Valuable assistance came from the air as Army helicopters from the **174th Aslt. Hel. Co.,** and **B Co., 123rd Avn. Bn.,** made repeated strafing runs on the enemy position.

Action began picking up as two members of a B Co. machinegun team, Chris Osgood (Huntington Beach, Calif.), and PFC *RICHARD OLSON * (Minneapolis), moved far forward of the main element and laid down deadly suppressive fire. SP4 David Schoolous, a squad leader, made repeated dashes to the enemy positions, silencing them with hand grenades, one by one, as other members of the company gave him covering fire.

A W A R D S
&
D E C O R A T I O N S

SILVER STAR MEDAL

SP4 James Ball, 198th Bde; CPT George Blake, 123rd Avn. Bn; SP4 Thomas Chase, 198th Bde; CPT Brian Chermol, 198th Bde; 1LT Roger Faust, 6-11 Arty; SFC Andres Garza, 198th Bde; 1LT James Gordon, 198th Bde; 1LT John Gundy, 198th Bde; SP4 Richard Minor, 1st Cav; 2LT Steven Rapier, 82nd Arty; PFC Vincent Sitoski, 198th Bde; SP5 Dale Mells, 198th Bde.

DISTINGUISHED FLYING CROSS

CPT Lavern Austin, 123rd Avn. Bn; 1LT Geoffrey Buckley, 14th Cbt. Avn. Bn; SP4 David Washington, 14th Cbt. Avn. Bn: CW2 [??]Avn. Bn; WO1 Thomas Dana, 14th Cbt. Avn. Bn; CPT George Handley, 123rd Avn. Bn; CW2 Dennis Lord [B/123rd] 123rd Avn. Bn; **1LT Bernard Mier, 174th Avn. Co**; WO1 Steven Moy, 14th Cbt. Avn. Bn; CW2 Ronald Olivotti, 123rd Avn Bn; WO1 Charles Preaus, 14th Cbt. Avn. Bn; SP6 John Ried, 123rd Avn. Bn; WO1 Michael Riley, 14th Cbt. Avn. Bn; SP4 David Washington, 14th Cbt. Avn. Bn; CW2 John Wiley, 123rd Avn Bn.

15October69-Southern Cross Vol. 2 No. 29 Page 1

Photo Caption: Pouring It On

Gunships from the **174th AHC** pour lead on suspected enemy locations just outside the perimeter of LZ Bronco. (Photo by SP4 Steve Tipton, 11th Bde) (Note: this is an awesome time lapse photo showing the tracers converging to the target area.)

SOUTHERN CROSS

AMERICAL DIVISION

Vol. 2, No. 29 CHU LAI, VIETNAM October 15, 1969

Pouring It On

Gunships from the 174th AHC pour lead on suspected enemy locations just outside the perimeter of LZ Bronco.
(Photo by SP4 Steve Tipton, 11th Bde.)

Combat In Review

An Enemy Ambush
Deals Losing Hand

LZ BRONCO -- A convoy traveling from the naval support activity at Sa Huynh to this forward firebase was hit with heavy automatic weapons and RPG fire on Hwy 1 two miles south of Duc Pho.

Subsequent combat sweeps by the division soldiers of the 11th Bde. resulted in twelve enemy soldiers killed, two of which were credited to LOH fire.

The helicopter was piloted by WO George Huggins (Philadelphia), flying visual recon for the convoy, and managed to lay down suppressive fire on both sides of the road until "sharks" gunships from the **174th Avn. Co**. arrived. Mr. Huggins was credited with two kills when the NVA attempted to throw satchel charges on a disabled truck.

With only fifteen minutes notice, members of **D Co., 4th Bn., 21st Inf.** had collected their gear and were combat assaulted on a ridgeline overlooking the enemy position.

As darkness set in, the company quickly organized and began a flanking sweep on line down to Hwy 1. When the sweep was concluded five enemy soldiers lay dead, and two AK-47 automatic rifles and six RPG rounds were captured. Then the company linked with four APCs from E Trp., 1st Cav. on the highway.

"We started popping hand flares as we reconned by fire down the hill," related 1SG James S. Berry (Santa Rosa, Calif.) "All of a sudden we spotted an NVA crouching the bushes about ten feet away. He started to raise his weapon, so four of us opened up on him, killing him instantly".

A sweep the next day by C Co., 4th Bn., 21st Inf. turned up five more enemy bodies. No U.S. casualties were suffered on either sweep.

Vol. 2, No. 35 CHU LAI, VIETNAM November 28, 1969

VILLAGERS RESCUED FROM FLOODWATERS

By PFC Toby Prodgers

LZ LIZ - The coastal lowlands of southern Quang Ngai Province were inundated by a deluge of floodwater, placing the Vietnamese civilians in the area in imminent danger of being washed away in the strong currents of The flash floods.

The Division's **1st Bn., 20th Inf.**, 11th Inf. Bde. reacted promptly to the emergency and in a driving rain evacuated 127 people from several small hamlets on Hwy. 1, five miles north of Duc Pho, To the battalion's firebase here.

SGT Dale E. Scheidt Topeka, Kan.) of B Co, while conducting operations on Hwy. 1, alerted the 1st and 4th platoons that the people in a small hamlet 300 yards west of the highway were in immediate danger of being swept away.

Scheidt attempted to swim out to the hamlet but was unable to fight the current. The two platoons then pooled their efforts and paddled out to the hamlet on their air mattresses, and once there, formed pontoons to evacuate the villagers.

When they arrived, The residents were clinging with their valuables to the roofs of their homes. SGT John B. Thomson (Manassas, Va.), platoon sergeant of the 4th Plt., said the water in some places was 10-12 feet deep.

"It seemed to accumulate quickly-in a matter of an hour or two. The current was so strong that the men had to make a hell of an effort to swim out and back. We made about four or five trips, and some of the stronger civilians were swimming with us to help out," Thomson explained.

A mile to the north, in the village of Vinh Hien, CPT Boyd M. Harris (Pontiac, III.), B Co.'s commanding officer, was busy with five of his men pulling people out of the water. PFC Stephan J. Hood (Waxhaw, N.C.) said, "We were on our way to the 2nd Plt.'s location when we passed a jeep that had been washed off the road. There were three men in the water, and 1LT Abe Lochart (Columbia, S.C.) jumped in to get one of them who looked like he was drowning. The Charlie-Charlie (command and control helicopter) dropped a raft to us and we pulled them out." Earlier the helicopter had extracted the 2nd Plt. which had also been stranded in the floods.

The command and control chopper landed on the highway and LTC Robert Wilson (Fayetteville, NC), battalion commander, and his RTO, SP4 Joseph Wrzesinski *Chicago), proceeded to assist evacuating people from their flooded hootches on to the high ground of the highway. "The water was up to our necks in some places and way over the heads of some of the children.

We managed to get them out with what valuables they could carry with them," Wrzesinski explained. Once on the highway, the civilians were evacuated to LZ Liz by seven gunships of the **174th Aslt. Hel. Co.** from LZ Bronco.

The battalion also evacuated a VC suspect, who jumped off a floating log when a chopper approached. CPT Gene Miller (Spanaway, Wash.), the battalion's forward artillery observer, said his chopper spotted three people hanging on to a log.

(Continued 1)

(Continued 1) **VILLAGERS RESCUED FROM FLOODWATERS**

"On the first pass we saw that two of them were children. The third was quite a bit older and jumped off the log and tried to hide in the water. He came back up for air and tried to evade, so I pointed to the door gunner's M-60 machinegun, and he finally decided to cooperate." The two children were taken to LZ Liz, and the VC suspect was turned in for questioning.

Once on the battalion firebase, the 127 evacuated civilians were provided with an emergency supply of food and clothing, and sanitation facilities were constructed for them.

They stayed overnight on the fire support base, and the next day when the flood waters had receded, were returned to the four "New Life" hamlets of An Dinh, My'Thuan, Vinh Hien Bac, and Vinh Hien Nam, five miles north of Duc Pho.

The hamlets are being upgraded as support of the battalion's pacification program to improve living conditions and security for the civilians of the area.

As the evacuees were leaving LZ Liz, little Billy Phuc, a 12-year-old, offered a touching and very poignant epilogue to the entire rescue operation: "Beaucoup water, you know. Water too big for all the people. If soldiers didn't bring us here, all people die. Beaucoup thank you."

His appreciation and that of his people was reflected in their grateful faces and extended hands as they prepared to return to their homes. (11th Bde IO)

AWARDS & DECORATIONS

SILVER STAR MEDAL

SP4 Harley E. Bowers, 196th Bde; SP4 Randal E. Grove, 196th Bde; PFC Jerry M. Heath, 196th Bde; LTC Cecil M. Henry, 196th Bde. SP4 ***.....Crease in paper copied.....***

DISTINGUISHED FLYING CROSS

WO1 John K. Applegath, 123rd Avn Bn; Bn: CPT Earl Ingram II (1st OLC), 14th Avn 1LT James E. Lutz, 123rd Avn Bn;: SP4 Ernest C. Matthews, 123rd Avn Bn: WO1 Stanley A. Reel, 123rd Avn Bn (Note; Stanley was in B/123rd Avn Bn); WO1 Reginald C. Slavens, 14th Avn Bn: CW2 Frances M. Tolle Jr, 14th Cbt Avn Bn; LTC Robert E. Wilson, 11th Bde..

BRONZE STAR MEDAL WITH "V" DEVICE

SP4 Donald R. Abeln, 14th Cbt Avn Bn; PFC Ancel S. Baldwin, 196th Bde; PFC James G. Bass, 82nd Arty; 1LT John F. Baxter III, 11th Bde; SSG James H. Beheler, 198th Bde: PSG Glenn A. Blackwell, 11th Bde; SSG James A. Buytaert, 196th Bde; SP4 Franklin R. Cole, Co G (Ranger), 75th Inf; PFC Danny G. Conaster, 11th Bde; PFC Max J. Emberton, 196th Bde; PFC James B. Evans, 196th Bde; SP4 Barry D. Daniels, 196th Bde; PFC Gregory Evans, 196th Bde; SP4 Barry D. Daniels, 196th Bde; PFC Gregory Deason, 196th Bde; PFC Clifford Deskins, 198th Bde; SP5 Andrew H. Drott, 198th Bde; PFC Ralph E. Durain, 196th Bde; PFC Robert H. Edwards, 196th Bde; SGT Sterlin M. Feeney (1st OLC), 11th Bde; PFC Miguel U. Gastelo, 196th Bde; PFC Robert E. Green, 196th Bde; SP4 John T. Griner, 11th Bde; SP4 Peter Helfenstein (1st OLC), 11th Bde; SGT Allan Holtzman (1st OLC), 196th Bde; PFC John H. Jackson, 196th Bde; SGT Leonard D. Knox Jr, 1st Cav; SP4 Frederick L. Lange, 11th Bde; SP4 Robert W. Leverenz, 196th Bde; 2LT William S. Linehan, 196th Bde; SP4 Robert J. Madden, 196th Bde; 1LT William L. Mauthe, 196th Bde; 1LT Frank W. Meyer, 11th Bde; 1LT Dennis D. O'Neill, 196th Bde; SGT Ronald W. Owens (1st OLC), 11th Bde; SP4 Joseph Palmeri, 198th Bde; PFC Frank W. Prickett, 198th Bde; SGT Kenneth Ragins (1st OLC), 196th Bde; PFC Scott Schuelke, 198th Bde; 1LT James B. Simms, 196th Bde; SP4 Tony L. Slagle (1st OlC), 196th Bde; PFC Avery H. Snipes, 196th Bde; PFC Paul Snodgrass, 196th Bde; PFC Richard A. Stensvad, 196th Bde; PFC Harold W. Thomas, 196th Bde; SP4 John E. Thomsen, 1st Cav; PFC Denis J. Timone, 196th Bde; CPT Alfred W. Watkins, 1st Cav; PFC Gene W. Wellman, 196th Bde; PFC Glenn H. White, 196th Bde; PFC Kenneth L. Wilkerson, 11th Bde; PFC Stephen C. Winebrenner, 196th Bde; PFC Ronnie E. Wingard, 196th Bde; SGT William E. Wion Jr. 11th Bde; PFC Sherman B. Zetsky, 196th Bde.

AIR MEDAL WITH "V" DEVICE

CW2 Robert E. Bailey (15th Awd), 14th Cbt Avn Bn; SP5 Terry L. Bennett (3rd Awd), 123rd Avn Bn (Note:A/123rd Avn Bn 2nd Flt Plt); SP4 Frank R. Brown Jr (2nd Awd), 14th Cbt Avn Bn: SGT Ralph B. Burchfield (2nd Awd) 123rd Avn Bn; (Note: B/123rd Avn Bn); **SP4 Horace M. Cassels (2nd Awd), 14th Avn Bn** (**Note: 174th AHC**);

SP6 Richard O. Colgate, (10th Awd), 14th Avn Bn: SP4 Michael D. Deahl (11th Awd), 14th Cbt Avn Bn; SP4 Peter Gudz (2nd Awd), 123rd Avn Bn; WO1 John T. Haselden (2nd Awd), 123d Avn Bn; WO1 Richard F. Hutson, 14th Cbt Avn Bn; WO1 Richard S. Jones (23rd Awd), 14th Cbt Avn Bn; WO1 Raymond L. Jopes (18th Awd), 14th Cbt Avn Bn; WO1 James R. Leech (2nd Awd), 14th Cbt Avn Bn; SP5 John L. May (3rd Awd, 14th Cbt Avn Bn; 1LT Kenneth E. Mayberry, 26th Engr Bn: SP4 Daniel C. Moody, 1st Cav; SP4 Peter Walsh (2nd Awd), 14th Cbt Avn Bn.

Vol. 3, No. 03 CHU LAI, VIETNAM January 16, 1970

Gaza Strip 'Cleared' In Fifty Days

By PFC Toby Prodgers

FSB LIZ -- The stretch of South China Sea coastland just north of Duc Pho was recently the object of a massive land clearing operation undertaken by the forces of the Army, Navy and Marines.

The "Strip" has long been a festering sore in the side of the agriculturally rich lowlands of southern Quang Ngai Province and has long been used as a spring board for enemy activity in the area.

WWII Classic

At the onset of what turned out to be a 50-day job were all the makings of a WWII classic beachhead assault. First whistling artillery rounds destroyed the scattered coastal bunkers, and then an air prep by Shark and Dolphin teams of the 174th Helicopter Assault Company made 'dead' any 'quick' enemy around. A Recon platoon from **Co. D, 1-20th Inf.**, 11th bde. was C-Aed onto the beach moments after the shelling stopped. At sea the landing ships were forming in cinemagraphic style.

Army First Ashore

The platoon secured the initial landing site and gave the signal to the Navy flat-bottomed landing craft to begin the assault. The first ashore were the Army "Rome Plow" and Marine "Eimco" caterpillars.

Co. A 1-20th, 11th Bde. was air lifted to the beach by Chinooks from Chu Lai and assumed security duties for the clearing by the division's **39th Engr Bn.**

10,000 Acres

Elements of **A and E Trp.'s 1-1st Cavalry** joined the operation later to assist in the land clearing and security of men and machinery.

In the end almost 10,000 acres (an average of 100 acres a day) was cleared in spite of the adverse weather conditions and enemy activity.

Relocation

Working with MACV and Vietnamese forces, the **1-20th Inf.** 11th Bde., successfully relocated the civilians from the "Strip" (Gaza Strip) to highway one, between the villages of Van Troung and Tap An Bac. They were provided with living quarters and an adequate supply of food. CPT. Andrew Z. Lisowski, the officer-in-charge of the relocation program, said that the civilians are "adjusting very well to the relocation and their spirits are high."

Review

Tactically the operation has proven to be successful. As the strip was cleared to the south, the enemy's hiding places and bases of operation were destroyed, thus the enemy had to keep moving toward the mouth of the Tra Cau River where they were eventually hemmed into a small area, confined by the river to the west and south and by the ocean to he east.

59 Enemy KIA

Alpha Company took advantage of the enemy's limited mobility and in one week of sporadic contact accounted for 39 enemy dead, wounded, captured, or 'Chieu Hoied' to the allies. For the entire operation the number of enemy killed reached 59.

Enemy basecamps, bunkers, and fighting positions in the strip are now gone. 45,000 pounds of enemy rice was confiscated as well as substantial quantities of medical equipment, ammunition and supplies.

(11th Bde IO)

Photo Caption: "Our Ships Had 23% Fewer Cavities"

FSB BRONCO: SP5 Charles E. Upton, Jr., (Portsmouth, Va.) a crew chief for the **174th Aviation Company**, cleans the vicious teeth of a "Shark" gunship. An aircraft solvent wax and a carbon removing compound are used to improve speed and maneuverability of the aircraft as well as enhancing the appearance. (U.S. Army Photo by PFC Peter R. Sorensen)

"Our Ships Had 23% Fewer Cavities"

FSB BRONCO—SP5 Charles E. Upton, Jr., (Portsmouth, Va.) a crew chief for the 174th Aviation Company, cleans the vicious teeth of a "Shark" gunship. An aircraft solvent wax and a carbon removing compound are used to improve speed and maneuverability of the aircraft as well as enhancing the appearance. (U.S. Army Photo By PFC Peter R. Sorensen)

27Feb70-Southern Cross Vol. 3 No. 08 Page 1

US, ARVN Team

Stop Enemy Force

FSB BRONCO -- The 4th Battalion of the 4th ARVN Regiment and the **174th Aviation Company** are teaming up as an unbeatable combination.

In their most recent operation they combined to kill 34th [sic] NVA and VC, detained seven VC, captured 60 Chicom grenades and five AK-47s. The joint operation also denied the enemy two tons of rice and one ton each of wheat and corn.

Based on intelligence and visual sightings of NVA moving along trails, the 4th Bn. was airlifted into an area 10 miles south of Quang Ngai City by the **174th Avn Co.** (Note: **174th Assault Helicopter Company)**.

CPT John Gibbons (Sayville, N.J.) led a flight of 10 'Dolphin' utility ships into five separate landing zones and then divided the flight in to sections of two ships to insert the 4th ARVN Recon Co. One section of aircraft, carrying a squad of ARVN, came under intense automatic weapons fire. Both craft took hits but were able to land.

During the action **"Shark" 174** was hit by automatic weapon fire, wounding the crew chief, SP5 Charles Coley (Clarkton, N.C.). Though severely wounded in one arm and one leg, he continued to accurate suppressive fire on the enemy, firing his M-60 machinegun with his left hand. He refused evacuation until his gunship was relieved by another **"Shark"**.

(Comment: The highlighted area above was corrected. The same article had been printed in the 11th Brigade "Trident". It had a piece of the article that had been omitted in the version printed in the "Southern Cross" newspaper.

The Command and Control Aircraft piloted by MAJ Virgil Blevins (Beeville, Tex.) and CPT Riddle made six emergency Medevacs for the ARVN's and by close coordination was able to commit reaction forces quickly.

As the squad of ARVN assaulted the unknown force, the lift ship put down suppressive fire and called for gunship support.

The Air Mission commander, CPT Stephen S. Riddle (Ashville, N.C.) immediately called for three lift ships to make an insertion of reinforcements. With this quick reaction the ARVN were able to rout an NVA-VC platoon, killing 18 enemy.

Two "**Shark**" gunship teams covered the assault. Led by CW2 Wayne D. Clark.

27Feb70-Southern Cross Vol. 3 No. 08 Page 8

Photo Caption: A "DOLPHIN" UTILITY SHIP of the **174th Aviation Company** (Note: Assault Helicopter Company) doesn't give premium stamps along with its goods, it just delivers. This ship is bringing in a load of still-frozen ice cream to 11th Brigade soldiers on FSB Bronco. (U.S. Army Photo)

A "DOLPHIN" UTILITY SHIP of the 174th Aviation Company doesn't give premium stamps along with its goods, it just delivers. This ship is bringing in a load of still-frozen ice cream to 11th Brigade soldiers on FSB Bronco. (U.S. Army Photo)

Proud Men Serving
Our
Action
Army
Photo SSG Ronnie A. Hodges
Career Counselor
Americal Hqs.
By MSG H.A. Bonesio

Sixty-six soldiers reenlisted in the AMERICAL Division during a two-week period. More than 68 percent of the reenlistees were formerly First Termers.

Division Troops were represented by SP5 James D. Fletcher, **23rd MP Co.**; from the **523rd Sig. Bn.**, SSG Virgil Bennett, HHC, and SSG Raymond Burns, A Co.; from the **26th Engr. Bn.**, MSG David Heidt, HHC, and SP4 Blanchard Olivis, E Co.

Support Command had PFC Michael Meehan and SSG. James Young, 23rd Admin. Co.; SP4 Thomas Gilbert, **63rd Inf.** Plt. (CT); SFC James F. Guttierrez, HQ & A Co., **23rd Med. Bn.**; SP4 Walter Chisolm and PFC John Sullivan, HHC, 23rd S & T Bn; PSC Paul Ikeda, Cbt Ctr.

Division Artillery retains PFC Vernon Brown, HHB, **1-14th Arty.**; SSG James Smith, A Btry., **3-82nd Arty.**; from **3-16th.**, SFC Frank Roulette, Svc. Btry., SSG Isaac Hart, A Btry., SGT Robert Snow, C Btry.

The 16th Combat Aviation Group keeps SFC Ronnie D. Hodges, HHC; SSG Richard Lampman, **71st Avn. Co.**; SFC Joseph Barnett, **174th Avn. Co.**; from the **723rd Maint. Bn.**, SP6 John J. Hehn and SSG Peter Farrin, E Co.

The 196th Infantry Brigade re-upped SFC Carl Higginbotham, HHC; from **4-31st Inf.**, SGM Antonio Guterrez, HHC, PFC Charles Wilson, A Co., PFC Steven Chapman, D Co., 1SG Robert McDermott, E Co.; from **1-46th Inf.**, PFC Daniel Koch, B Co., SP4 Frank White, PFC Jimmie Davis, PFC Stanley Bradley, PFC Dan Farmer, all from D Co.; from **2-1st Inf.**, SP4 Jimmie Ogden, HHC, SP4 Larry Sidebottom, PFC Michael Shaffer, SP4 Carlos Reed, PFC Alan Turner, PFC Robert Brady, PFC Barry Mogil, PFC Gerald Albracht, PFC Eugene Williams, PFC Walter Dembowski, PFC Joseph Seid, PS4 [SP4] Donald Evans, all form A Company, PFC Larry L. Laurenzana and PFC Ernest Harris, C Co., SP4 Howard Walter, D Co.

Combat In Review

Frogmen Help Inf. Uncover Big Cache

FSB BRONCO - In response to numerous radar sightings along the coast of the South China Sea, the 11th Inf. Bde. recently called in two Navy frogmen from the **Underwater Demolition Team (UDT)-12**, which is presently based in Da Nang.

"Our radar has picked up personnel and metallic movement at the mouth of the Song Tra Cau, one mile northeast of Duc Pho. The spottings seem to disappear, leading us to believe that there are numerous caves and tunnels in the area," reported CPT Joseph P. Phillip (Philadelphia), 11th Inf. Bde. chemical officer.

An aerial recon of the area revealed the possibility of many caves and hiding places and the need of a ground search.

The shoreline infantrymen from **C Co., 1st Bn., 20th Inf.**, along with a "Primo" LOH form the brigade's aviation section and a "Dolphin" utility **helicopter from the 174th Avn. Co.** secured the area while the divers conducted their search.

Aviation Boatswain Handler Second Class Larry Molina (Los Angeles) and Quartermaster Second Class David James (Los Angeles), both members of UDT-12, found themselves out of water as often as in the murky inlet as their day-long venture took them through caves and tunnels and into the numerous nooks and crannies which abound on the rough landscape.

The men's labors produced one sampan, seven round basket boats, six oars, 14 large nylon fishing nets, 120 pounds of rice and 40 pounds of fish.

"This area is one big storage place. The VC had to have been here three to six hours before our arrival. The fish we found were fresh and in one bag we found a large crab still alive," said James.

At times the men disappeared, armed only with a .45 cal. automatic pistol and a flashlight, head first into cracks in the rock handing our enemy food supplies nd fishing gear.

Diver Larry Melino commented after the completion of the search, "We enjoyed being tunnel rats and which that we could stay longer on this operation." Pointing to his sweat band he added, "That's not sea water. It's sweat--nervous energy. You never know what you'll you'll find in one of those holes."

At day's end the frogmen and "Jungle Warriors" were extracted by helicopter, leaving behind some hungry VC. Not only had food been confiscated but more important, its means of production. (11th Bde. IO)

Story & Photos By
SP4 Peter Sorensen
11th Bde. IO

Photo Captions -

1) AN AGILE INFANTRYMAN scrambles along the rocks in the Song Tra Cau.
2) WETSUIT CLAD DIVER squeezes between rocks, seeking VC food caches.
3) NAVY DIVERS GATHER fishing equipment hidden between large rocks.

Division Recap

Troops discover caches By SP4 Dennis L. Selby

Americal Division soldiers recently accounted for 163 enemy killed in the southern I Corps area. In the same seven day period, the men captured over a half a ton of rice and 10-15 tons of salt.

Geneva Park ..Omitted.....

Iron Mountain

In the mountains six miles east of Duc Pho, soldiers of **Bravo Company, 4th Battalion, 3rd Infantry** discovered 10-15 tons of salt salted away. The cache was in a pit inside a well camouflaged hut.

Twenty-two NVA fell to rocket and gunfire of the **174th Aviation Company** Helicopter) as "Shark gunships turned a routine combat assault into a two hour air-ground battle.

While the company's "**Dolphin**" utility ships were lifting in one battalion of the **4th ARVN Regiment** and a rifle company of the **3rd Battalion, 1st** into landing zones 20 miles northwest of Duc Pho, a heavy fire-team of gunships spotted fresh .51 caliber gun emplacements, bunkers and structures thought to be a rice collection point.

"While we were marking the enemy positions with smoke grenades we spotted movement. We saw, engaged and killed three NVA who were trying to evade along a river." recalled Captain Stephen S. Riddle, Weaverville, N.C.

"Our rocket fire must have hit a command post because a company element of confused NVA split into large groups and ran in all directions."

It was then that the gunships were able to take full advantage of their lethal firepower.

Elsewhere **"Warlords" of the 123rd Aviation Battalion** and **Alpha Company, 3rd Battalion, 1st Infantry** combined forces to kill three NVA and one VC near the Song Giano River 16 miles northwest of Duc Pho. One enemy rifle was confiscated in the brief action.

Recon, 1st Battalion, 20th Infantry, National Police Field Force and **"Shark" gunships** recently teamed up to kill 15 VC while detaining ten of the enemy.

Three AK-47s and three SKS rifles were captured in the action which took place in the lowlands six miles north of Duc Pho.

"Shark" gunships of the **174th Aviation Company** also accounted for three VC killed during an insertion. According to Warrant Officer James A. Reich, Wilmington, N.C., "We were circling overhead while the lift ships were inserting. Suddenly a VC with a pack and weapon was spotted running toward a mountain and dove into a bush. So we started firing up the area pretty good." Three VC soldiers were found killed by the gunships.

Frederick Hill.....omitted

22May70-Southern Cross Vol. 3 No. 18 Page 1

Photo Caption: These choppers from **174th Aviation Company** (Assault Helicopter) turned a routine air assault into a four hour air ground battle in which 22 NVA lost. The ships were lifting one battalion of the 4th ARVN Regiment and one company from the **3rd Battalion, 1st Infantry** into landing zones northwest of Duc Pho.

These choppers from 174th Aviation Company (Assault Helicopter) turned a routine air assault into a four hour air ground battle in which 22 NVA lost. The ships were lifting one battalion of the 4th ARVN Regiment and one company from the 3rd Battalion, 1st Infantry into landing zones northwest of Duc Pho. (U. S. Army Photo)

Page 6 SOUTHERN CROSS May 22, 1970

(U.S. Army Photo)

'Sharks' chew up 22 NVA on air assault

By SP4 Peter R. Sorensen

FSB BRONCO - (11th INF BDE IO) -- Twenty-two NVA fell to the rocket and gun fire of the 174th Aviation Company (Assault Helicopter) as the "**Shark**" gunships turned a routine combat assault into a four hour air-ground battle.

Twelve of the company's "Dolphin" utility ships were lifting one battalion of the ARVN 4th Regiment and a rifle company of the **3rd Battalion, 1st Infantry** into landing zones 20 miles northwest of Duc Pho. A heavy fire team of three Shark gunships were providing cover and scouting for the operation.

"Cork Pass" with its mountains, valleys and triple canopy jungles is the naturally sheltered sanctuary of the NVA. "As expected from previous visual reconnaissance flights and intelligence reports, we found well used trails, fresh .51 caliber emplacements, bunkers and structures we think were rice collection points. We saw areas where the foliage had been cut to be used as camouflage, but as on numerous other occasions we could see no movement," sated Captain Stephen S. Riddle, Weaverville, N.C. Shark gun ship platoon leader.

Said Warrant Officer James E. Rich, Wilmington, N.C., "We hovered over a small river bed and began marking enemy positions with smoke. We spotted a NVA, fully equipped with an AK-47 evading and we killed him. Then we began to work the area over. Captain Riddle rolled in with rockets and machine guns. Then all three Sharks rolled in."

Captain Riddle continued, "When we started marking the area with smoke, the enemy must have gotten excited and started to move. You could tell they were NVA because they were all wearing grey uniforms with cut-off pants, ruck sacks, camouflage and carrying weapons. They were well equipped; you could see entrenching tools sticking out of their packs."

"When my ship rolled in, we killed three. On this pass we must have hit a command post because a company-size element panicked, split into large groups and ran," Captain Riddle added. (continued on page 6) (Continued from Page 1) It was now that the gunships took full advantage of their fire power.

Debris and shrapnel splattered into the air, as the gunships made successive dives.

Piloting the Air Mission Control helicopter over the battlefield was the commanding officer of the **174th Aviation Company,** Major Fredrick G. Blackburn, Kansas City, Mo., "There was superb coordination between the gunships and the ground troops. The commander of the **3rd Battalion, 1st Infantry,** Lieutenant Colonel Roger A. Culbertson, Longview, Wash., who had just assumed command of the battalion, was far sighted and flexible enough to change his troop landing zone in view of the enemy situation and deploy a reaction and blocking force."

Continuing Major Blackburn said, "Seeing the smoke from the air, Colonel Culbertson was concerned about the welfare of his men in that their positions were being lost from view. But enemy positions and escape routes were well marked and a gunship was on hand to[o] at tree level over our men.

In a war that often bogs down into a routine of hide-and-seek and blind man's bluff, it is a tribute to the men of the 174th Aviation Company who continually maintain their high level of flying and fighting ability patiently waiting for the enemy to make that final fatal mistake. Twenty-two confirmed dead can forget. But many more NVA must live with the sight of smoldering scorched earth, a grey pall in a sunless afternoon, a sickening panic and the gleaming white Sharks teeth diving through the murk spitting rocket and machine gun fire into his once secure world.

Division Recap: Americal troops kill 260 enemy

By SP4 J. B. Majerus

CHU LAI (AMERICAL IO) -- In a week of activity throughout the Division's AO, Americal soldiers accounted for 260 enemy kills in early May.

Frederick Hill.....Omitted...

Iron Mountain

The heaviest action in the 11th Infantry Brigade took place in the mountains overlooking the Song Ve River as **"Primo" aviation** engaged and killed nine NVA.

The **Primo** choppers and the **4th Battalion, 21st** Infantry teamed up to kill three VC and one NVA in the foothills seven miles south of Duc Pho. The Recon element also netted three VC detainees, three carbines and two automatic rifles.

Delta Company of the 4th Battalion accounted for one VC KIA and the capture of his weapon.

Alpha Company killed two NVA and captured their AKs, 20 60mm mortar rounds and one 60mm base plate. The action took place in the lowlands five miles south of Duc Pho.

The "Shark" gunships of the **174th Aviation Company** teamed up with D Battery, 6th Battalion, 11th Artillery to kill four VC.

Delta Battery also responded to a call from the 3rd Battalion, 1st Infantry who had spotted 12 VC and an estimated company of NVA in the lowlands 22 miles northeast of Duc Pho. Artillery stopped five of the NVA and two VC dead in their tracks.

Alpha Company of the **3rd Battalion, 1st Infantry** killed one NVA who walked into their position. One 9mm pistol was confiscated in the action 18 miles northwest of Duc Pho.

In the only defensive action in the Americal AO, elements of the **3rd Battalion, 1st Infantry** defending Fire Support Base 4-11 smashed two six man VC sapper squads involved in an early morning attack on the hill. Of the 12 sappers, ten were killed, one wounded and one detained.

Alerted by a trip flare, set off by a sapper sneaking inside the perimeter, the men killed five and wounded one of the sappers who attacked at 12:30 a.m.

Two hours later, five sappers were killed and one detained when they attacked from the northwest. Confiscated were six satchel charges, two AK-47's, one AK-50 and three RPG launchers with ten rounds.

Bravo Company, 1st Battalion, 20th Infantry accounted for one VC dead. Later Bravo killed four VC and had one rally in action that took place in the foothills three miles north of Duc Pho.

Firing from FSB 4-11, the 6th Battalion, 11th Artillery reached out and killed 22 NVA who were seen moving the foothills 22 miles northeast of Duc Pho.

"Warlords" of the 123rd Aviation Battalion accounted for two NVA killed and three civilians detained in the mountains northwest of Duc Pho.

Other units of the 11t h Infantry Brigade killed a total of 22 enemy in scattered action throughout their AO.

Geneva Park ...Omitted....

174th gets Gold Star

CHU LAI (AMERICAL IO) - The Republic of Vietnam presented the **174th Assault Helicopter Company** with the Colored Gallantry Cross with Gold Star for Valor at ceremonies in Duc Pho.

The **174th**, located at Duc Pho in southern Quang Ngai Province, was cited for its support of the 4th Regiment, 2nd ARVN Division during two large scale search and destroy operations in 1969.

During the operations, many NVA and Viet Cong soldiers were killed or captured.

At the ceremony Lieutenant Colonel Le Ba Khieu, 4th ARVN Regimental Commander, presented the **174th** with the Colored Gallantry Cross with Gold Star for Valor in the form of a streamer for the Company colors.

At the conclusion of the ceremony, Major Frederick G. Blackburn, commanding officer of the **174th Assault Helicopter Company,** stated, "We of the **174th** would like to express our gratitude to the Republic of Vietnam, the 2nd ARVN Regiment and Lieutenant Colonel Le Ba Khieu for this citation. The 174th is more than proud to support the 4th Regiment in any way possible and we look forward to serving them in the future.

05Jun70-Southern Cross Vol. 3 No. 20 Page 3

174th gets Gold Star

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05Jun70-Southern Cross Vol. 3 No. 20 Page 8

16th Avn Bn cited

CHU LAI (AMERICAL IO) -- The **16th Combat Aviation Group's 14th Aviation Battalion** and its subordinate units received the Valorous Unit Award at Chu Lai.

Major General A.E. Milloy, Commanding General, affixed streamers to the guidons of the **71st, 174th, 176th, and 178th Helicopter Companies as well as the Headquarters Detachment, Medical Detachment and the 14th Security Platoon.**

It is the second Valorous Unit Award for the **178th ASHC.**

General Milloy remarked at the presentation ceremony, "I would say, without taking anything away from this award, that an account of any seven day period for this unit would read the same as the citation."

The unit was given the award for its performance during the period August 13 to August 19, 1967 during Operation Benton. During the operation, the unit successfully lifted artillery and infantry personnel over rugged mountain terrain and inserted the troops in an unfamiliar area west of Chu Lai.

The unit continued, often under heavy enemy fire, to provide fire support with gunships, fly numerous-resupply missions and perform emergency medical evacuations.

146 enemy killed

Weekly Recap: action decreases

By SP4 Dennis L. Selby

CHU LAI (AMERICAL IO) – During the last week of May there was a noticeable decrease in enemy activity in Southern I Corps with Division units killing 146 enemy soldiers and capturing more than 50 individual weapons.

Geneva Park .....**Omitted**.....

Frederick Hill ...Omitted.....

Iron Mountain

Forgetting to pull the pin on a grenade cost an NVA soldier his life in a recent action which killed three NVA in the mountains eight miles southwest of Duc Pho.

Alpha Company, 4th Battalion, 3rd Infantry observed the three NVA evading to the east, all carrying packs and wearing brush as camouflage.

The ensuing engagement, killed one NVA and a sweep of the area produced the grenade-throwing NVA and the third member of the trio-both dead.

In an action five miles southwest of Duc Pho, Alpha Company, 4th Battalion, 21st Infantry was credited with eight VC killed. Six were found on a check of an area of previous contact. Two enemy were killed at mid-morning by a patrol of Alpha Co. that remained at their company's night defensive position.

One 9mm pistol and three hand grenades were confiscated in the action.

In a "non-action" in the 11th Brigade area recently, Charlie Company, 3rd Bn., 21st Inf. uncovered an 800 to 1,000 pound unpolished rice cache buried in the lowlands four miles south of Duc Pho.

In the same general area, Alpha Co., 4th Bn., 21st Inf. found a dead VC who had been killed by artillery. The enemy was found in the foothills five miles south of Duc Pho. The kill was attributed to A Battery, 6th Battalion, 11th Artillery.

Gunships of the **174th Aviation Company**, flying in support of Charlie Co., 4th Bn., 21st Inf., recently accounted for four NVA dead.

The "**Shark**" gunships were called to station over the banks of the Song Be River 15 miles northwest of Duc Pho after an element of the company had been engaged by six to seven NVA.

Battalion CO rescues downed helicopter crew

By SP4 Toby Prodgers

FSB BRONCO (11th INF BDE IO) – Controlling a combat assault mission into the foothills of the Lon Mountains, nine miles northwest of Duc Pho, a Division acting battalion commander saw a light Observation Helicopter (LOH) plummet into a mountainside after taking fire from enemy gunners on the ground. He then led a three-man party up the side of the mountain and successfully extracted the LOH's two dazed crewmen.

Major William T. Honjiyo, Hanapepe, Kauai, Hawaii, acting commander of the 1st Battalion, 20th Infantry, 11th Infantry Brigade, had been supervising ground operations of Company A from his Command and Control helicopter after the infantry troops had been air-lifted into the mountains. The ground operations later produced three VC killed.

The LOH had been flying low-level, seeking out enemy positions in the thick jungle terrain when Major Honjiyo saw it go down. The control helicopter's pilot, Major Frederick G. Blackburn, Kansas City, MO., commanding officer of the 174th Aviation Company (Assault Helicopter), set down on a small knoll at the base of the mountain and Major Honjiyo, his radioman and the chopper crew chief immediately set out on foot, armed only with two rifles and a pistol, to rescue the LOH's crew.

Trailing up through the jungle and along a stream bed, the three men noticed several indications of recent enemy presence in the area. There were enemy blood trails on the ground, a result of gunship preparation of the area immediately prior to the insertion of the infantry.

As the rescue party approached the site of the downed LOH, a Huey chopper was hovering overhead and one of the LOH's crew was trying to ascend the rope ladder that had been lowered. Because of the threat of enemy fire from concealed positions in the jungle and the danger of the stunned crewmen falling, the Major motioned him of the ladder and waved the Huey out of the area.

The three men then joined the LOH's pilot and gunner who were uninjured but dazed from the shock of the crash.

They then stripped the chopper of what gear they could carry and made it back down the mountainside where they were extracted by the waiting control helicopter.

Explaining the urgency of the situation, Major Honjiyo said, "The LOH had been badly banged up and judging from its condition we felt the crew must be in bad condition. We were closest to them, and there really was no alternative."

Division Recap Children reveal caches

CHU LAI (AMERICAL IO) - In Operation Geneva Park several Vietnamese children lead troopers of H Troop, 17th Cavalry to an impressive cache of 96 mortar rounds, 60 mines, and a variety of other highly explosive ordnance. Elsewhere in Operation Fredrick Hill the **3rd Battalion, 21st Infantry** and the **2nd Battalion, 1st Infantry,** accounted for three-fourths of the brigades 43 enemy killed for the week. In Operation Iron Mountain the **174th Aviation Company** killed 34 NVA in a two day action.

Geneva Park (Omitted)

Iron Mountain

The Recon platoon of the **4th Battalion, 3rd Infantry** engaged two VC in the early morning hours and picked up an SKS at the site of the engagement. Pursuing a blood trail until early afternoon, the recon element spotted three VC and killed one. The action took place in the mountains six miles southwest of Duc Pho. **Company D, 3rd Battalion, 1st Infantry,** wounded and detained two VC while working in the lowlands 26 miles northwest of Duc Pho.

Bravo Company, 4th Battalion, 21st Infantry killed one VC. The kill came in the foothills seven miles south of Duc Pho. **Recon 4th Battalion, 3rd Infantry** accounted for one VC killed with claymores in the mountains six miles south of Duc Pho. In action lasting two days, Sharks of the **174th Aviation Company** killed 34 NVA while flying in support of the 4th ARVN Regiment. The action which took place near Nghia Hanh, 18 miles northwest of Duc Pho, netted one enemy light machine gun, two .51 caliber enemy machine guns and an AK-47.

A Kit Carson scout working with the ARVN said the enemy force was the remains of his battalion, or about two companies.

Recon, **4th Battalion, 3rd Infantry** engaged an undetermined number of NVA with supporting artillery fire from B battery, 6th Artillery. The artillery barrages continued through the evening and a morning check of the area by the Recon element turned up two dead NVA and one AK-47. The action took place in the mountains seven miles southwest of Duc Pho.

Company B engaged three of the NVA in the early morning hours when they set off a trip flare in front of the company's NDP. Small arms fire and hand grenades thrown from the company's defensive position accounted for one NVA killed. One pistol was confiscated in the action, which occurred in the foothills six miles west of Duc Pho.

Company **A, 3rd Battalion, 1st Infantry,** while working along Song Tra Khuc (Tra Khuc River) 25 miles northwest of Duc Pho, engaged and killed on VC across the river. A short time later, Alpha engaged three on the opposite bank, killing two. **Bravo and Delta Companies, 1st Battalion, 20th Infantry** engaged eight VC, killing two. One pistol was confiscated by Company B in the action, which occurred in the lowlands north of Duc Pho.

Company D, 3rd Battalion, 1st Infantry engaged two VC in the lowlands 26 miles northwest of Duc Pho. One of the enemy was killed, and one was wounded and detained.

The detained VC was carrying a pressure-type firing device.

Company C, 1st Battalion, 20th Infantry observed and engaged two VC when the enemy came out of the jungle in the lowlands 16 miles north of Duc Pho. Both enemy soldiers were killed in the action.

Children reveal caches

The **Recon platoon of the 3rd Battalion, 1st Infantry** was led to an arms cache by a Hoi Chanh. The cache consisted of two heavy automatic weapons, two carbines, one SKS and a CHICOM submachine gun. The weapons were located in a cave 22 miles northwest of Duc Pho.

Company D observed two VC evading and engaged them, killing one and wounding one. The action took place in the lowlands 26 miles northwest of Duc Pho.

Div Recap: Heavy action near Tam Ky

By SP4 Stephen Frazier

CHU LAI (AMERICAN [AMERICAL] IO) - The soaring temperatures of Southern I Corps in June did not stop regulars from the Division's three brigades as they accounted for 184 soldiers killed.

Heaviest action remained in the area 22 miles northwest of Tam Ky in Operation Fredrick Hill. Soldiers of the 196th Infantry Brigade operating in that area were accredited with 60 enemy soldiers killed. In operation Geneva Park the **5th Battalion, 46th Infantry** was lead to a sizeable ordnance cache by a rallier. Elsewhere in Operation Iron Mountain action was sporadic as the **3rd Battalion, 1st Infantry** and the **123rd Aviation Battalion** teamed up for 7 enemy killed in a single action.

Fredrick Hill ... Omitted.....

Iron Mountain

In Operation Iron Mountain action contact was regular, each day elements of the **1st Battalion, 20th Infantry** killed one to two enemy soldiers but sightings and engagements never revealed more than one to five enemy soldiers to be dealt with.

In an unusual incident the S-2 section of the **4th Battalion, 21st Infantry** was credited with one VC killed and one grenade confiscated as they worked eight miles south of Duc Pho.

Late in the week, **Sharks** of the **174th Aviation Company** engaged and killed one VC in the lowlands 26 miles northwest of Duc Pho. The VC was carrying assorted medical supplies.

Wednesday morning saw 11th Infantry Brigade troopers from the **3rd Battalion, 1st Infantry** and the **123rd Aviation Battalion** killed seven enemy soldiers along the Tra Khuc River 25 miles northwest of Duc Pho. It was the heaviest action of the week.

Geneva Park – Omitted....

48 ton rice cache found By SP4 Toby Prodgers

FSB LIZ (11th INF BDE IO) - Operating under frequent harassment from VC snipers, a company of the 11th Infantry Brigade soldiers recently uncovered one of the largest enemy rice caches ever found in the I Corps Tactical Zone. The men of **Company C, 1st Battalion, 20th Infantry** conducted an intensive, nine-day search operation that produced 97,500 pounds of enemy rice along the coastline, ten miles north of Duc Pho.

Initially, **Company C** had been "combat assaulted" two miles east of the village of Mo Duc, on information that a large unit of VC was operating in the area. Engineers from the **26th Engineering Battalion** had reported several instances of enemy sniper fire and mortar fire as well as a number of booby traps.

Company C swept through the flat, open rice paddies, interspersed with hedgerows, mangrove swamps, and small, oasis-type hamlets. A short range patrol from the mortar platoon was sent to check one of these hamlets.

A routine search failed to yield any significant results until Sergeants James E. Balcarczyk, Lackawanna, N.Y., and Alan P. Denucci, North St. Paul, Minn., entered an old church, fallen into disuse. Once inside, the two men discovered rice hidden in coffin-like boxes. Intensifying their search, they came up with almost two and a half tons of the enemy food staple and sparked company-sized search operation that was to last for the next nine days. Searching all four small hamlets, the company found hidden caches in virtually every hut.

"At first we found simple caches hidden under woodpiles, haystacks, and in bunkers. As time went on, though, we found them buried in gardens with fertilizer spread over the rice. It'd be in the pig pens too, under the mud, straw, and dirt. Ninety percent of it was in plastic bags," explained Staff Sergeant John G. Moore, Oxford, Ala.

In one instance, a man put a stick through the floor of one of the hooches and exposed a subfloor full of rice. Up to two layers of caches were found in some of the hooches. (continued on page 6) **Sykes' Regulars find rice -- 48 tons** (continued from page 1)

The night of the first find, the third platoon was setting up outside one of the hamlets for security, when Specialist Four James M. McCord, Holly Hill, Fla., hit a 300 pound cache while digging out a foxhole.

Later, First Lieutenant John P. Grice, Jackson, Miss., the mortar platoon leader struck a 1,300-pound cache when he stepped outside to dig a field latrine.

Two days after the search operation began, a Chinook, hovering above a load of rice to be extracted took a heavy volume of enemy machinegun and automatic weapons fire from one the nearby swamps.

"Shark" gunships from the 174th Aviation Company (Assault Helicopter) were called in and hit the enemy position with rockets. Immediately after the aerial bombardment the first and second platoons moved into the swamp, destroying bunkers marked by a Light Observation Helicopter hovering overhead. During the contact, the men killed one VC and detained 11 others.

Much of the rice was reserved for distribution to civilians in the area and the rest was sent to Mo Duc for wider distribution throughout Quang Ngai Province. The enemy's failure to retain his mammoth rice supply will almost certainly have its effect on the main force NVA and VC Infantry Brigade's area of operation.

(continued)

48 ton rice cache found

Photo Captions:

1) Company **C, 1st Battalion, 20th Infantry,** 11th Infantry Brigade, moves in line through a rice paddy in a search operation south of Chu Lai which yielded 97,500 pounds of rice (Photo by SP4 Herbert Brady)

2) Soldiers of the **1st Battalion, 20th Infantry,** 11th Infantry Brigade, load sacks of rice onto a helicopter which was part of the cache found 2 miles east of Mo Duc. The rice cache was distributed to Vietnamese families. (Photo by SP4 Herbert Brady)

Soldiers of the 1st Battalion, 20th Infantry, 11th Infantry Brigade, load sacks of rice onto a helicopter which was part of the cache found 2 miles east of Mo Duc. The rice cache was distributed to Vietnamese families. (Photo by SP4 Herbert Brady)

NVA loses 135 in Nghia Hanh attack By SP4 Peter R. Sorensen

FSB BRONCO (11th INF BDE IO) - A recent enemy drive against Nghia Hanh, CIDG Camp, has cost the NVA 135 dead. The emplacement, five miles southwest of Quang Ngai City, was the object of a regimental-size offensive which if successful, would have left Quang Ngai City open to attack. The enemy move was to coincide with a similar attack upon Hiep Duc to the north.

The **174th and 176th Aviation Companies** (Assault Helicopter) and the 4th ARVN Regiment combined to stop the NVA and dictate a bloody retreat back into the mountains.

Prior knowledge of the enemy's intentions, through military intelligence, could do little to stem the fury and force of the NVA mortar and ground attacks. "When we got on station it was hard to tell who was in possession of Nghia Hanh. Soldiers of the **4th ARVN Regiment** who were air-lifted in earlier, were in heavy contact," stated Warrant Officer Jarvis D. Gambrell, Port Arthur, Texas of the **174th,** "We came under heavy enemy ground fire...three or four .51 caliber machineguns and some .30 calibers.

Heavy ground fighting by the 4th ARVN Regiment and inspired flying by the gunships, neutralized the enemy action against Nghia Hanh. The NVA were forced to assume a defensive stance. NVA elements attempted to flee south to their sanctuary in Song Ve River Valley; they were fixed and destroyed by gunships and reaction forces of ARVN infantrymen delivered by "Dolphin" utility ships of the **174th Aviation Company**.

The coup de grace" was dealt the enemy offensive on the western ridge of the Song Ve River Valley corridor. Second Lieutenant John I. O'Sullivan Brooklyn, N.Y., **174th gunship pilot**, described the action: "The gunship pilots are familiar with the western and eastern mountain chains which rise up from the Song Ve. A 'Shark' gunship passed over the western ridge and noticed that it wasn't as 'bald' or as open as usual. From the base at the southern side-to the top-to the base at the northern side was a row of bushes that weren't there normally. A second pass of the area revealed an AK-47 attached to one of the limbs. What the pilot identified was a camouflaged, 800 yard relief column of enemy soldiers headed for Nghia Hanh."

Major Fredrick G. Blackburn, Kansas City, Mo., commander of the **174th Aviation Company**, flying the Air Mission Control ship cleared the grid and turned the gunships loose on the trail. Lieutenant Colonel Le Ba Khieu, commander of the 4th ARVN Regiment, realizing the enemy situation organized a reaction force which was combat assaulted at last light right on tope of the now smoldering trail.

Commented WO Gambrell, "The 4th ARVN Regiment is an outstanding unit. We like working for them, because we know they are busting for us. They got in there and were all over the NVA."

On the command level, Major Blackburn had these words of praise, "The cooperation between the **4th ARVN Regiment** and the **174th Aviation Company** has always been excellent. Colonel Khien is an outstanding military leader. During this operation he was highly flexible in his decisions which were calculated a step ahead of the enemy situation."

The South Vietnamese element while sweeping the battlefield credited the 174th Aviation Company with the destruction of a command post. The 4th ARVN Regiment has confirmed that 135 NVA died in their attempt to raze Nghia Hanh. Seventeen kills were credited to the 176th Aviation Company and 38 to the "Shark gunships of the **174th Aviation Company**.

A grim postscript to the action occurred a day and a half later when an American force in the Song Ve River Valley detained an NVA who identified himself as a regimental cook. he reported that he was ordered to wait in the valley for the element's return from the Nghia Hanh mission-thus far, no one had returned.

The Sharks use modern equipment in grand old style

Story and photos by SP4 Peter R. Sorenson

FSB Bronco (11th INF BDE IO) - In a sense the "**Shark**" gunship platoon of the 174th Aviation Company (Assault Helicopter) is an anachronism. While their helicopters and weaponry are '70's vintage, the battle techniques of a guerilla war are reminiscent of the 1914 skies over France. When a thin-Skinned Shark banks and rolls in to engage the enemy, it is subject to the same anti-aircraft and small arms fire that was thrown at the Spad bi-plane.

There is still a certain romance to piloting the flying machines. The hectic and often dangerous schedule includes lively camaraderie at a club and a white sheeted bed at night rather than a soggy Vietnamese rice paddy or muddy European trench. The young pilot's gung ho enthusiasm is still tempered by their experienced professionalism. Five miles east of Quang Ngai City, two Shark heavy fire teams alternate flying security for a combat assault of the 4th ARVN Regiment. The waves of men are ferried into 24 landing zones(LZs) by a dozen "**Dolphin**" utility ships.

Gunships without a "hot" landing zone are like and infantryman without a P-38 can-opener. They prepare the LZs and patiently cover the sky train of utility ships. They wait. The two gunship pilots are in constant communication.

"the smoke-ship did alright this time; right between the treeline and LZ," commented Captain Stephen S. Riddle, Weaverville, N.C.

"Darn wind makes it hard not to smoke the flight. That lead ship is too low. She'll get there before us if she doesn't pull up," replied First Lieutenant John L O'Sullivan, Brooklyn, N.Y.

For three hours the gunship make the flight back and forth between staging areas and landing zones. The teams alternate stops at Quang Ngai City for fuel, re-armament and a short C-ration picnic.

Returning to station, the gunships cruise the site of the last combat assault of the day. They gain altitude to over-see the put-down of utility ships and ARVN infantry. Captain Riddle stretches in his front seat as darkness falls.

The Air Mission Control ships comes on the horn: "CA complete, LZ hot. I repeat hot."

"Let's go get them," called Captain Riddle as he banked and descended to the left.

"I've got four or five on the run in uniforms with weapons," announced Lieutenant O'Sullivan as he dove into a hedgerow saddle.

Rockets, min-guns and M-60 machine guns poured fire into the area. Lieutenant O'Sullivan pulls out to the sound of exploding rockets and the sight of black bellowing smoke.

"We've covered a couple with min-gun. We've taken hits."

Captain Riddle follows in by descending quickly with the down-ward motion of a Ferris wheel. An NVA frantically runs for a hedgerow and dives into it. The Shark abruptly swings back and forth as the ship is lined up for a rocket run. Captain Riddle sights the aiming reticule.

Like two fire-crackers in a trash can, the rockets leap forward from their pods sending red hot ignition wire fragments flying into the cabin. The door gunners open up with a steady stream of M-60 fire for flank security at this critical moment. Through the windshield two black mushrooms explode on the target.

(Continued 1)

(Continued 1)

Two more sets of two rockets are sent on their way before the Shark jerks upward out of its dive. It circles to the right to continue the deadly two Shark pinwheel.

Captain Riddle comes on the intercom and acknowledges what all had heard, "Where did we take hits?"

"We got about two or three rounds in the left rocket pod. One tube is down, replied Crew Chief Specialist 4 Ernest T. Johns, Brandon, Fla.

During the next half hour, the gunships alternated angles of attack destroyed a bunker and caused a secondary explosion and laid suppressive fire for the advancing ground troops.

Air Mission Control: "**Shark 6**", you are released -- find job. That secondary may have been a mine. You may stay on station if you want to see what the ARVN get into.

"I was hoping you would say that," remarked Captain Riddle.

The two gunships reconned a large area surrounding the scene of contact.

"Hey ' there's a big hole down there," said Specialist Johns.

The door-gunner waved and pointed out the spot out to the ARVN. On the second pass, he threw a smoke grenade. On the third pass a waving ARVN pointed to a uniformed NVA they had pulled out of the hole.

Wearily heading home above Highway One, the two ships bantered back and forth about the day's action.

"We took a couple of rounds in the chin bubble, Guess who got his third Purple Heart? said Lieutenant O'Sullivan.

You?" came back the answer from Captain Riddle.

"Yea, took a little shrapnel in the leg."

A red glow fills the cock pit from the instrument panel. Captain Riddle stretches again. Door gunner Specialist 5 Fred G. Vandiver, Riverside, Calif. props his foot on a door and adjusts himself on his hard flat armored seat pad.

The village smells of livestock and dinner fires drifts through the cabin. In a few minutes the city like lights of the perimeter, Fire Support Base Bronco is on the horizon.

the end of the mission; the end of the day? Hardly. Maintenance must be administered to the aircraft. The pilots checking in at operations, are notified that a visual recon of the "Rice Bowl" has been ordered. A team of gunships must also recon the Bronco perimeter.

A night, maybe a restless night, will pass. "On call" requires that their 24 hour day be punctuated by scrambles.

If they could wear streaming white silk scarves, they would -- for the Lafayette Escadrille is here.

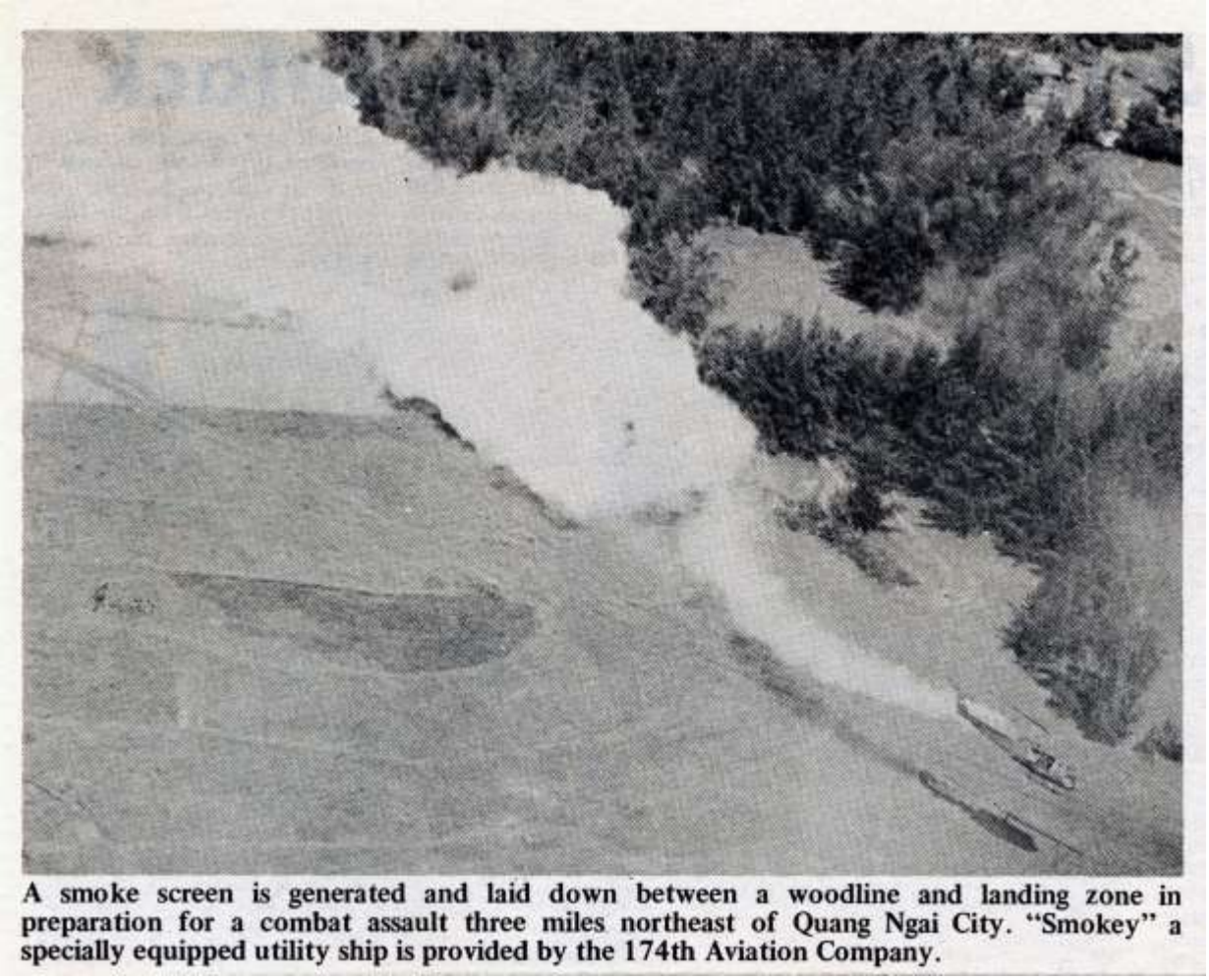
(Continued 2)

(Continued 2)

03Jul70-Southern Cross Vol. 3 No. 24 Page 4-5 **The Sharks use modern equipment in grand old style**

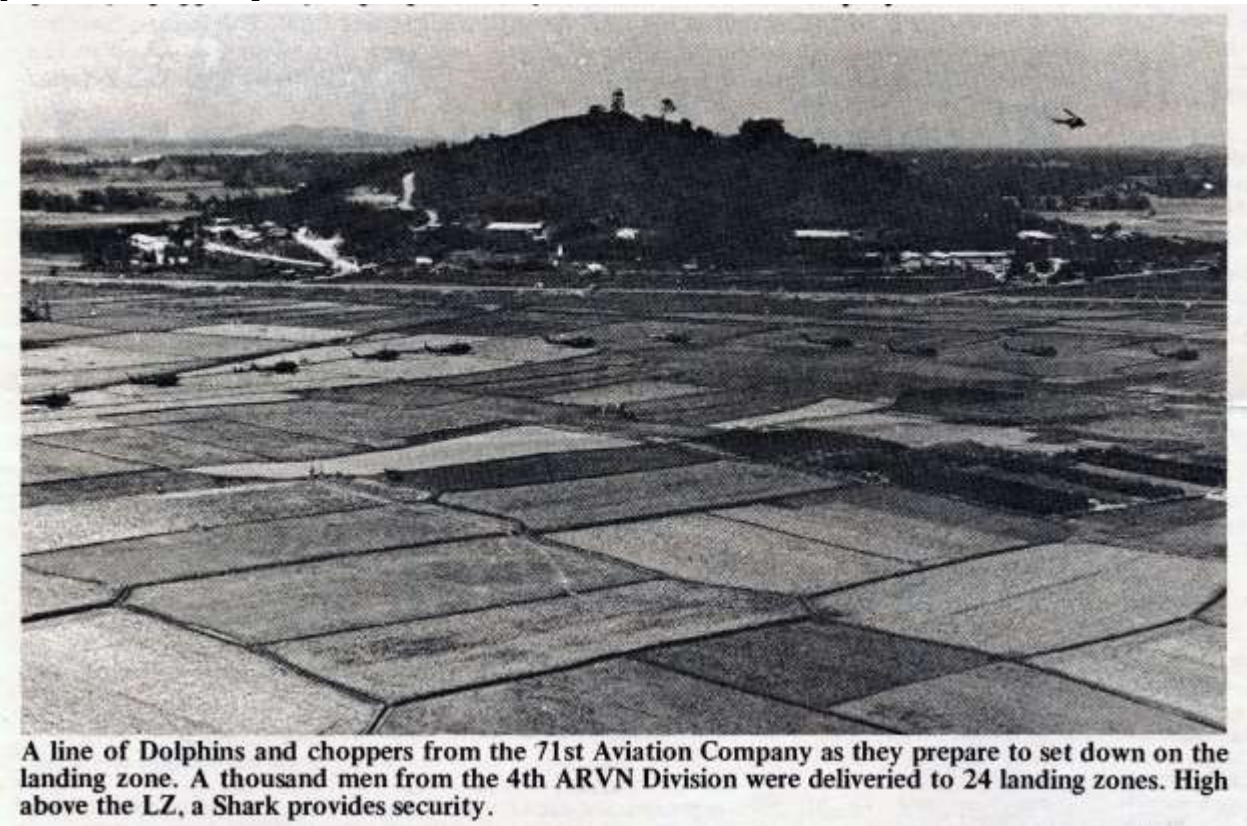
Photo Captions:

1) A smoke screen is generated and laid down between a woodline and landing zone in preparation for a combat assault three miles northeast of Quang Ngai City. "Smokey a specially equipped utility ship is provided by the **174th Aviation Company.** (Note: Quang Ngai might be correct, but the other captions refer to Duc Pho which was the base area for the **174th AHC**).



A smoke screen is generated and laid down between a woodline and landing zone in preparation for a combat assault three miles northeast of Quang Ngai City. "Smokey" a specially equipped utility ship is provided by the 174th Aviation Company.

2) A line of **Dolphins** and choppers from the **71st Aviation Company** as they prepare to set down on the landing zone. A thousand men from the 4th ARVN Division were delivered to 24 landing zones. High above the LZ, a Shark provides security.



A line of Dolphins and choppers from the 71st Aviation Company as they prepare to set down on the landing zone. A thousand men from the 4th ARVN Division were deliveried to 24 landing zones. High above the LZ, a Shark provides security.

3) A **Dolphin** delivers its wave of "Jungle Warriors" from the 11th Infantry Brigade during a combat assault three miles northeast of Duc Pho.

A Dolphin delivers its wave of "Jungle Warriors" from the 11th Infantry Brigade during a combat assault three miles northeast of Duc Pho.

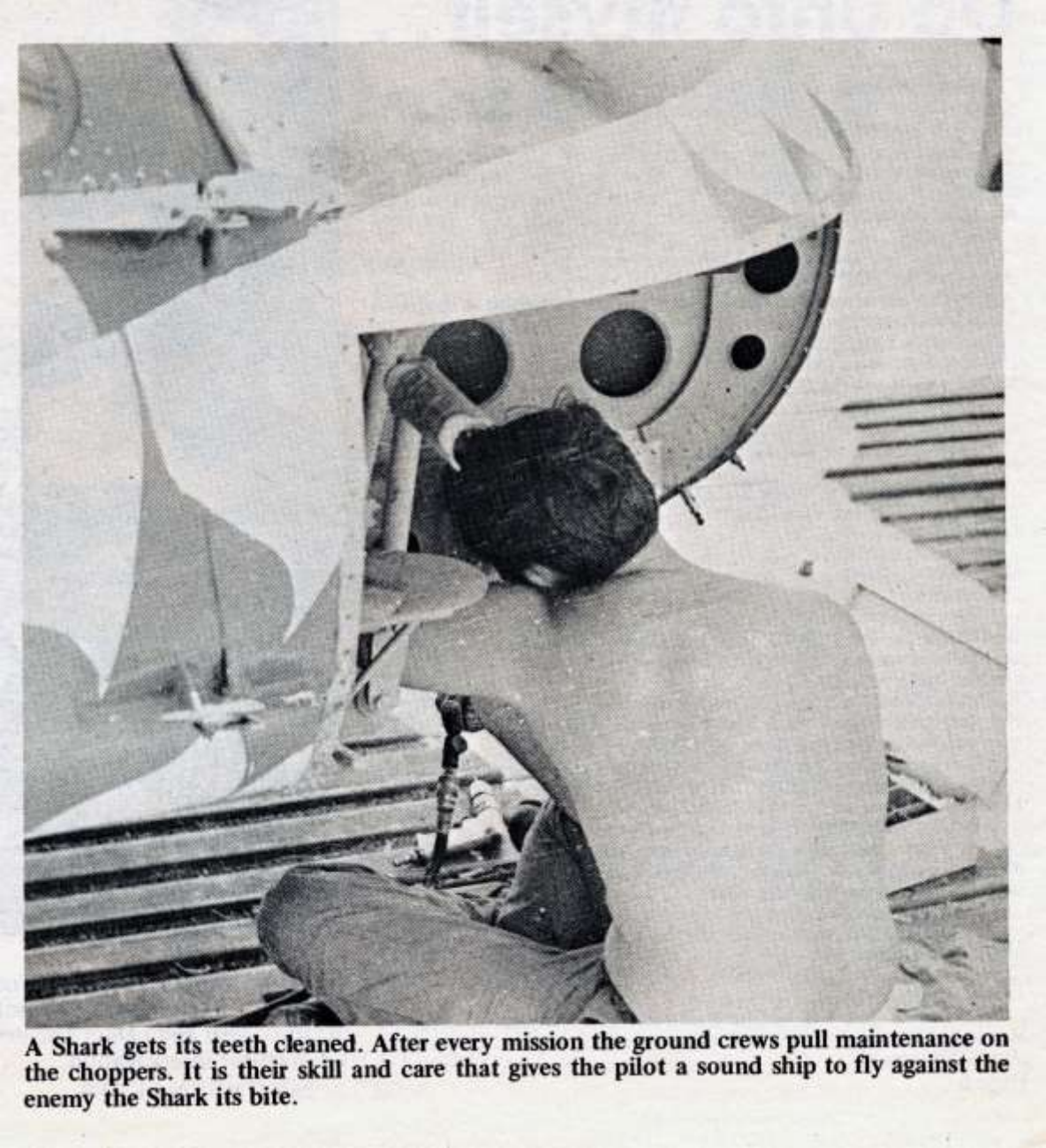
4) A "**Dolphin**" utility ship of the **174th Aviation Company (Assault Helicopters**) descends to a landing zone under the cover of smoke during a combat assault three miles northeast of Duc Pho.

A "Dolphin" utility ship of the 174th Aviation Company (Assault Helicopters) descends to a landing zone under the cover of smoke during a combat assault three miles northeast of Duc Pho.

5) A **Shark** prepares the Duc Pho landing zone with rocket and min-gun fire. The fire power and maneuverability of the Huey helicopters makes them ideal tactical weapons for supporting the ground pounders.

A Shark prepares the Duc Pho landing zone with rocket and mini-gun fire. The fire power and maneuverability of the Huey helicopters makes them ideal tactical weapons for supporting the ground pounders.

6) A **Shark** gets its teeth cleaned. After every mission the ground crews pull maintenance on the choppers. It is their skill and care that gives the pilot a sound ship to fly against the enemy the **Shark** its bite. (Looks like someone repairing the battle damage caused when the enemy shot out the chin bubble).



A Shark gets its teeth cleaned. After every mission the ground crews pull maintenance on the choppers. It is their skill and care that gives the pilot a sound ship to fly against the enemy the Shark its bite.

Tough Allied combination
surprises Viet Cong Unit **By SP4 Toby Prodgers**

FSB LIZ (11th INF BDE IO) - In some of the heaviest fighting seen recently in southern Quang Ngai Province, a combined element of Division soldiers, **National Police Field Force (NPFF)**, and ARVN Reconnaissance soldiers, supported by "Shark" gunships of the **174th Aviation Company**, killed 15 VC and confiscated six enemy rifles near the village of Mo Duc, ten miles north of Duc Pho.

The **Recon Platoon, 1st Battalion, 20th Infantry**, 11th Infantry Brigade was trucked to Mo Duc's MACV compound from this forward firebase, in response to an intelligence report that a well armed VC unit was working out of a small hamlet near Mo Duc.

AT 1:30 a.m., the platoon moved out from the compound over open rice paddies with a squad of NPFF soldiers and took up a position east of the hamlet. Meanwhile, a squad of ARVN Recon soldiers, stripped down in sapper fashion, moved to the west side.

Three hours later, after tightening their blocking position to the east, the Americans fired their small arms over the hamlet to flush the VC into the ARVN position.

The ploy worked perfectly as the enemy rushed out of the hamlet square into the Allies' claymores, producing the night's first enemy casualties.

The VC then reversed their direction, moving toward the Americans and NPFF and both sides exchanged heavy fire.

The enemy barraged the friendly positions with AK-47 fire, rocket propelled grenades, and CHICOM hand grenades, but were unsuccessful in their attempt to inflict casualties.

Said NPFF advisor Staff Sergeant Thomas R. Martin, "We did not expect as much resistance as we received. We later learned that they were a hard core unit attempting to organize and train local force VC units."

"They simply couldn't stand up to our fire," Sergeant Martin continued. "They tried to escape through a mangrove swamp but our claymores cut them down. When they went the other way the M-60 machineguns and gunships were waiting. My interpreter, Master Sergeant Giai, did such a fine job of directing gunship fire no the enemy, the pilots thought he was an American soldier."

As "Shark" gunship moved in and placed fire east of the hamlet, the VC withdrew with their wounded and what weapons they could carry.

After the firefight, 15 VC lay dead, four were detained, and six suspected accomplices in the hamlet were held for interrogation. The Allies also policed up four AK-47's and two SKS assault rifles.

174th bowls over 34 foe

By SP4 Peter R. Sorensen

FSB BRONCO (11th INF BDE IO) -- In two days of three related contacts with enemy soldiers, the **174th Aviation Company (Assault Helicopter**) flying in support of the 4th ARVN Regiment was credited with 34 enemy dead.

The action, which occurred four miles southwest of Quang Ngai City, was an ARVN initiated offensive against enemy sanctuaries and staging areas in the Song Ve River Valley from which recent enemy thrusts at Nghia Hanh Civilian Irregular Defense Group (CIDG) Camp and Quang Ngai were launched.

The **1st Battalion, 4th Regiment** was combat assaulted into lowlands south of Nghia Hanh by "Dolphin" utility ships of the 174th. Successive lifts received enemy fire.

On the third day of the operation, the battalion was jumped to a new location by Lieutenant Colonel Le Ba Khieu, commanding officer of the 4th ARVN Regiment.

Colonel Khieu taking advantage of the military situation committed his men employing one element as a blocking force and engaging another element on a strategic hilltop. The hilltop proved rugged, not only in its terrain. It was discovered to be a fortified enemy position. Commented "**Shark**" pilot Second Lieutenant John I. O'Sullivan, Brooklyn, N.Y., "The NVA were well dispersed and heavily dug-in. We saturated the hilltop with rockets and mini-and machinegun fire."

Lieutenant O'Sullivan, First Lieutenant Joseph R. Brandt, Newton, Iowa, Chief Warrant Officer James E. Rich, Wilmington, N.C., and Chief Warrant Officer Ronald D. Robertson, Dallas, Tex., poured 144 rockets into the enemy stronghold during the day-long battle. "coming back from a quick rearming and fueling run, we were told that the NVA had withdrawn. A visual recon of the hilltop took fire. They were still there and not leaving, so we continued to pour it on," said Lieutenant O'Sullivan.

An ARVN sweep of the once hostile hilltop uncovered 15 "Shark" victims, bringing the gunship toll for the three-day operation to 34. Also located were two destroyed .51 caliber heavy machineguns.

Weekly recap

Division soldiers tally 114 enemy

CHU LAI (AMERICAL IO) - Last week saw 114 enemy fall to the guns of the Americal. In operation Frederick Hill, the "Polar Bears" of **Charlie Company, 4th Battalion, 31st Infantry** received 13 Hoi Chanh, of which six brought their families. Elsewhere in Operation **Iron Mountain** the "Jungle Warriors" of the 11th Infantry Brigade accounted for 31 enemy killed. The lightest action occurred in Operation Geneva Park as the "Brave and Bold" of the 198th Infantry Brigade tallied eight enemy killed.

Operation Frederick Hill ....Omitted.....

Operation Iron Mountain

Early in the week **Company D, 3rd Battalion, 1st Infantry** accounted for one VC killed in the early morning hours while working near the Song Tra Khuc River northwest of Duc Pho. Later in the day they picked up another three VC killed with claymore mines.

The same day elements of the **4th Battalion, 21st Infantry** killed two VC and confiscated one AK-47 rifle.

The next day Company **D, 1st Battalion, 20th Infantry** engaged four VC who were spotted by the element's Kit Carson Scout. In the following hit and run fire fight one of the enemy was killed. The action occurred in the lowlands north of Duc Pho.

In an evening engagement with five VC, Company D, accounted for two of the enemy killed. Three packs and four grenades were confiscated in the action which occurred in the lowlands north of Duc Pho.

Working in the lowlands southeast of Duc Pho, **Company D, 4th Battalion, 21st Infantry** uncovered a .51 caliber machinegun.

Company **A, 3rd Battalion, 1st Infantry** and **E Troop, 1st Cavalry** accounted for two VC killed while working together on the Song Tra Khue [?this might be a typo?] River northwest of Duc Pho.

Company **A, 3rd Battalion, 1st Infantry** uncovered a 10-ton rice cache near the Song Tra Khuc River northwest of Duc Pho. The rice was found in 55 gallon drums and baskets in a small ville.

"Sharks" of the **174th Aviation Company** sighted and engaged two NVA on the Song Ve River northwest of Duc Pho. One of the enemy was killed when they attempted to swim the river, the other evaded into heavy vegetation.

Company **A, 4th Battalion, 3rd Infantry** uncovered a two and one-half rice cache while working near the Song Ve River northwest of Duc Pho. The rice was found in numerous hooches, most of it in 55 gallon drums and some in large baskets.

Com**pany D, 1st Battalion, 20th Infantry** had a heavy day of action working adjacent to the South China Sea north of Duc Pho. The element initially killed one VC and one NVA, detaining two enemy soldiers and confiscating one AK-47. Later, on information supplied by a Vietnamese National, the element learned that two VC were scheduled to arrive at his ville. The company engaged and killed both VC when their Kit Carson Scout spout spotted them approaching.

Recon engaged a seven to nine man VC squad in the foothills west of Duc Pho. The ensuing fire fight resulted in four enemy killed, two automatic weapons, one AK-47, one Carbine, and four grenades confiscated.

Company B killed one VC in an yearly morning engagement with an undetermined size enemy force. Four of the enemy were detained in the action which occurred in the lowlands north of Duc Pho.

Company C engaged and killed one VC while working in the mountains northwest of Duc Pho. One pack, assorted medical supplies, 10 pounds of rice, and NVA canteen, and a knife were confiscated following the action.

Operation Geneva Park... Omitted.....

07Aug70-Southern Cross Vol. 3 No. 29 Page 6

Photo Caption: A door gunner on a **174th Aviation Company** (Assault Helicopter) "Shark" gunship provide a steady stream of M-60 fire for flank security during a rocket run on a visual reconnaissance mission, five miles southwest of Duc Pho.

A door gunner on a 174th Aviation Company (Assault Helicopter) "Shark" gunship provide a steady stream of M-60 fire for flank security during a rocket run on a visual reconnaissance mission, five miles southwest of Duc Pho.

(Photo by SP4 Peter R. Sorensen)

Div gets 95

Div Recap: Action for week declines

CHU LAI (AMERICAL IO) - Action decreased considerably for the week as troopers of the Americal accounted for 95 enemy killed. The heaviest action of the week saw "Chargers" of the 196th Infantry Brigade in Operation Frederick Hill kill 41 enemy soldiers and capture several weapons. In **Operation Iron Mountain** the "Jungle Warriors" of the 11th Infantry Brigade tallied 25 enemy soldiers. Elsewhere in Operation Geneva Park action continued at a light pace as the "Brave and Bold" of the 198th Infantry Brigade nabbed six enemy soldiers and uncovered several bunker and tunnel complexes.

Frederick Hill...Omitted....

Iron Mountain

In the largest single contact of the week in Operation Iron Mountain the "Gimlets" of the **4th Battalion, 21st Infantry** killed six Viet Cong.

While working in the lowlands south of Duc Pho, Recon uncovered a bunker complex which was two stories high in places. In the process of searching and destroying the complex the "Gimlets" killed six VC.

The **"Always First" of the 3rd Battalion, 1st Infantry** netted five VC in the weeks action.

In the middle of the week while working under "**Shark**" gunships Bravo Company killed one VC and detained another. Later in the day the infantrymen uncovered a tunnel which revealed three dead VC.

Very light action for the week was the rule for **Delta Company of the "Old Guard"** who accounted for one VC killed while on patrol in the mountains southwest of Duc Pho.

"**Sharks**" of the **174th Aviation Battalion** and **"Primo"** Aviation teamed up on two different occasions during the week to kill seven enemy soldiers.

In the middle of the week two aviation units combined for two VC in the lowlands north of Duc Pho and the next day for five more while working near the Song Tra Khuc River.

Geneva Park -...omitted....

GI with bayonet
detains 7 VC

By SGT Chuck Merdzinski

FSB LIZ (11th INF BDE IO) -- Tipped-off by a Vietnamese boy, a "six foot eight" "Jungle Warrior" of the 11th Infantry Brigade armed only with a bayonet detained seven armed VC. They were in a rice hauling operation along the coastal area ten miles north of Duc Pho.

While transporting rice from a large enemy cache, a **CH-47** helicopter received heavy sniper fire. Captain Edward J. Mullen, Youngstown, Ohio, commanding officer of **Company C, 1st Battalion, 20th Infantry,** directed the first and second platoons in a search of a dense mangrove swamp where the shots came from. **"Shark"** gunships of the **174th Aviation Company** prepped the area with rocket and minigun fire before the advance.

Specialist Four, Jimmie L. Dubose, Pachute, Miss., heralded as the tallest pointman in Vietnam, inched his huge frame through the thick vegetation and found a small hamlet. Immediately an eight year old boy began pointing at a fortified bomb shelter whispering "VC." Specialist Dubose called to Specialist Four Elwood Vincent, Sulphur, La., for assistance before checking the bunker.

With his bayonet drawn the giant soldier crawled into the bunker and retrieved a trembling VC.

He continued to cautiously search the area and came upon four 100-pound bags of rice. He sensed trouble and his suspicions were confirmed when his young Vietnamese friend began pointing frantically at another bunker.

When he bent down to peer into the bunker Specialist Dubose found himself face to face with an enemy soldier. The VC refused to surrender forcing him and Private First Class David L. Sowell, Sioux Falls, S.D., to toss three grenades into the hole.

Brandishing his bayonet once more he squeezed into the bunker for the surprise of his life. Inside were six armed VC soldiers who had been protected from the blasts by a grenade sump.

With as much bravado as bravery he pushed the enemy from their hiding place into the surprised arms of his squad waiting outside the bunker. "It only took a few shoves and pokes from my bayonet to persuade the VC to leave," said Specialist Dubose.

Finding and detaining enemy soldiers is nothing new to Specialist Dubose. During his seven months in Vietnam he has personally detained six other VC for a total of 13--an unlucky number for the VC in Duc Pho district.

Division recap

196th Bde finds enemy basecamp

Action decreased noticeably in the past week's action as units of the Americal killed 103 enemy soldiers. In Operation Frederick Hill "Chargers" of the 196th Infantry Brigade killed 40 enemy soldiers and destroyed an enemy basecamp. Elsewhere in Operation Geneva Park the "Brave and Bold" of the 198th Infantry Brigade also found and destroyed a large enemy basecamp and tallied 31 enemy soldiers. In **Operation Iron Mountain** the "Jungle Warriors" of the 11th Infantry Brigade also found and destroyed a large bunker complex consisting of 30 bunkers and from 50 to 70 fighting positions.

Frederick Hill - .Omitted.....

Geneva Park - ....Omitted.....

Iron Mountain

Early in the week **Recon, 4th Battalion, 21st Infantry** discovered a massive bunker complex on a search and clear operation in the mountains southwest of Duc Pho. The complex consisted of 30 bunkers which were well camouflaged and had overhead cover. From 50 to 70 fighting positions were evident throughout the complex which was fortified with 16-inch logs.

The next day while working in the lowlands north of Duc Pho., **Charlie Company, 1st Battalion, 20th Infantry** engaged an estimated six VC in a treeline. Three of the enemy were killed in the engagement and three AK-47s and one grenade were confiscated following the action.

The same day the "Sharks" of the **174th Aviation Company** accounted for five VC killed in action in the lowlands northwest of Duc Pho.

In the middle of the week **Company C, 3rd Battalion, 1st Infantry** discovered a 300 pound rice cache in the lowlands northwest of Duc Pho. The rice was found buried in a 55 gallon drum in an out hooch.

The next day Company D netted two VC with a stay behind ambush at their old NDP in the lowlands northwest of Duc Pho. Two AK-47s were confiscated in the engagement.

Concluding the week's action the "Sharks" of the **174th Aviation Company** observed and engaged four NVA. Two of the enemy were killed in the action.

(Continued)

327th Aviation Detachment airtraffic control
Story and
Photos by
Sergeant
Bill Lake

Photo Captions:
1) Utilizing two sets of radar screens, these radar operators guide air traffic in for a landing. One radarman lines aircraft up with the runway while the other adjusts altitude for the setdown. (Note: these men are wearing the 1st Avn Brigade patch on their left shoulder)

Utilizing two sets of radar screens, these radar operators guide airtraffic in for a landing. One radarman lines aircraft up with the runway while the other adjusts altitude for the setdown.

2) After giving clearance for takeoff, this air traffic controller at the Duc Pho Airfield watches a C-123 speed past the tower.

After giving clearance for takeoff, this airtraffic controller at the Duc Pho Airfield watches a C-123 speed past the tower.

3) Taxiing in after a perfect landing, this C-123 has this radar unit and the men who operate it to thank for assisting in the safe landing.

Taxiing in after a perfect landing, this C-123 has this radar unit and the men who operate it to thank for assisting in the safe landing.

4) A C-123 lifts off the runway on one of the passenger flights that leave Duc Pho daily. Only one aircraft is cleared for landing or takeoff at a time.

A C-123 lifts off the runway on one of the passenger flights that leave Duc Pho daily. Only one aircraft is cleared for landing or takeoff at a time.

5) Caption: A "**Dolphin**" utility helicopter passes in front of the Duc Pho Airfield after being cleared to land at one of the 19 helipads on the 11th Infantry Brigade firebase. (Note: A helicopter from the **174th AHC** flies by with the Duc Pho control tower in the background.

A "Dolphin" utility helicopter passes in front of the Duc Pho Airfield after being cleared to land at one of the 19 helipads on the 11th Infantry Brigade firebase.

BATTALION COMMANDER RESCUES
DOWNED "SHARK" CHOPPER CREW

By SP4 Kenneth B. Parry

FSB 4-11 (11th BDE IO)- With a gunship down and enemy nearby, a battalion commander, Lieutenant Colonel Roger A. (Culberson, Longview, Wash., of the **3rd Battalion, 1st Infantry** made the crucial decision to attempt a rescue with his command and control (C&C) Helicopter. The rescue was successful, but to make room on the (C&C) ship, the Colonel and his operations officer, Captain Robert Graham, Parchogue, N.Y., had to remain with the downed gunship.

Earlier, two "Shark" gunships from the **174th Aviation Company** (Assault Helicopter), flying in support of the 11th Infantry Brigade, returned the fire of five enemy personnel they had detected while on routine patrol 15 miles northwest of Duc Pho. On a resupply mission at the time, Colonel Culbertson used his (C&C) ship to airlift a nearby element of Company closer to the initial area of contact. The enemy's automatic weapons fire continued to be directed at the two "Sharks" and it was while making a low pass over the target area that one of the gunships burst into flames.

Within minutes the Colonel's helicopter was on the scene and soon afterward, Captain Graham, along with first Lieutenant Bill Brumley, Dallas, Specialist Four Leroy Wilson, Lottsburg, Va. and the ship's two door gunners, Privates first Class Abbey and Woodard were placing the casualties on board.

With the nearest friendly element over 800 yards away, Colonel Culbertson and Captain Graham elected to remain on the ground so that the entire crew might be evacuated. Armed only with their pistols and a radio, the two officers waited nearly twenty minutes before Sergeant Stephen Ridnour, Linwood, Wash., and members of the fourth platoon reached their location. Reflecting on the situation, Captain Graham commented, "I only hoped the Colonel was a better shot with the .45 than I."

A sweep of the gunships original area of contact revealed one VC dead, medical supplies, and one AK-47.

Weekly recap, 92 killed

Decrease in Division action

CHU LAI (AMERICAL IO) - Action was light for the week as units of the Americal killed 92 of the enemy in numerous small engagements. The "Brave and Bold" of the 198th Infantry Brigade, in Operation Geneva Park killed 17 enemy soldiers and confiscated several weapons and munitions. The "Chargers" of the 196th Infantry Brigade, in Operation Frederick Hill claimed 41 of the enemy. Elsewhere in **Operation Iron Mountain** the "Jungle Warriors" of the 11th Infantry Brigade had a light week as they inflicted 10 casualties on the enemy.

Geneva Park - ......Omitted

Frederick Hill- .....Omitted.....

Iron Mountain

Early in the week the "Always First" of **Delta Company, 3rd Battalion, 1st Infantry** netted two VC in a stay behind ambush at their old night laager in the lowlands northwest of Duc Pho.

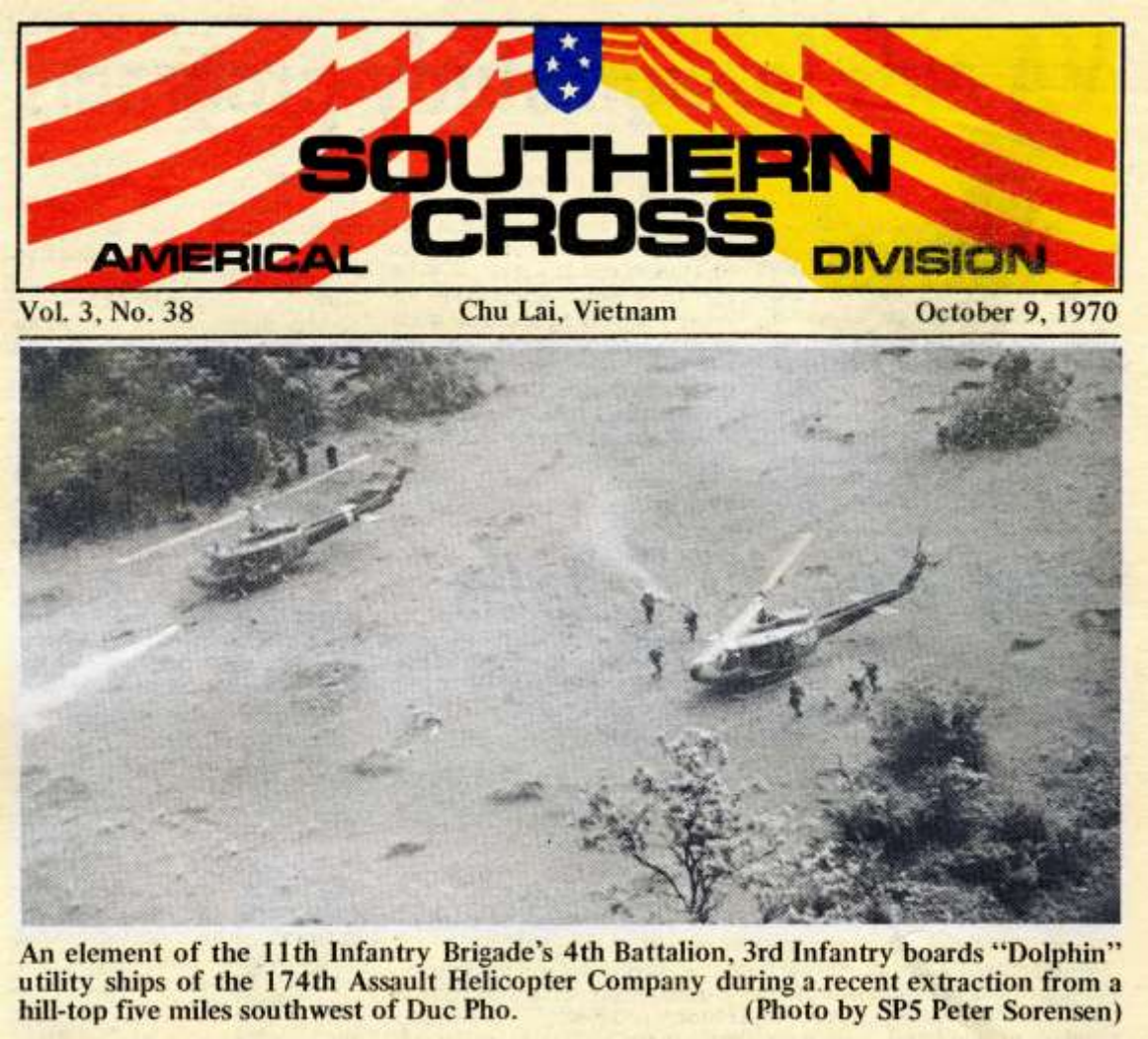
While working in the lowlands northwest of Duc Pho in the middle of the week Alpha Company discovered a hooch which was being used as a booby trap factory. Found in the hooch were chisels, scrap metal, shrapnel, files and artillery casings.

The next day Alpha Company observed three to four VC evading in the same area. The resulting contact with the enemy produced one VC killed and another wounded and detained.

Early in the week while operating in the mountainous terrain southwest of Duc Pho, **Delta Company, 4th Battalion, 3rd Infantry** discovered an enemy sapper school. The area consisted of classrooms, benches and barb wire. The enemy facility was destroyed by the "Old Guard."

The next day **Bravo Company, 1st Battalion, 20th Infantry** engaged three to four VC while patrolling in the lowlands north of Duc Pho. The ensuing fire fight, which saw "Shark" gunships from the 174th Aviation Company called to station, resulted in one Viet Cong killed and another wounded and detained.

09Oct70-Southern Cross Vol. 3 No. 38 Page 1
Photo Caption: An element of the 11th Infantry Brigade's **4th Battalion, 3rd Infantry** boards "**Dolphin**" utility ships of the **174th Assault Helicopter Company** during a recent extraction from a hill-top five miles southwest of Duc Pho. (Photo by SP5 Peter Sorensen)



SOUTHERN CROSS

AMERICAL DIVISION

Vol. 3, No. 38 Chu Lai, Vietnam October 9, 1970

An element of the 11th Infantry Brigade's 4th Battalion, 3rd Infantry boards "Dolphin" utility ships of the 174th Assault Helicopter Company during a recent extraction from a hill-top five miles southwest of Duc Pho. (Photo by SP5 Peter Sorensen)

Division recap

Kill 130, find huge rice cache

CHU LAI (AMERICAL IO) - The tempo of fighting in the southern part of the First Military Region remained moderate as division soldiers accounted for 130 enemy killed. The 198th Brigade topped the action by killing 38 enemy, 17 in one skirmish, and by discovering a cache of more than 30,000 pounds of rice. The "Chargers" of the 196th Brigade surprised and killed 28 enemy in Operation **Frederick Hill**. Gunships from **F Troop, 8th Cavalry** in the 11th Brigade accounted for four NVA kills in action south?est of Quang Ngai City.

Geneva Park – Omitted .....

Frederick Hill – Omitted .....

Iron Mountain

Alpha Company, 1-20th Infantry, observed three VC at 300 meters while patrolling along the coast southeast of Quang Ngai City. The infantrymen engaged the VC, killing two while the third escaped to the southwest.

"Jungle Warriors" from the 11th Brigade accounted for six KIA's, while three other units added another three kills in the brigade's area of operations. In a stay-behind ambush, the 4th Platoon of **Delta Company, 3-1st Infantry,** killed four VC with small arms and M-79 fire.

A **Recon element of the 1st Battalion, 20th Infantry,** in two separate actions, netted two kills in the lowlands northwest of Duc Pho. The "Sykes Regulars" also captured three AK-47s, an automatic weapon, a pistol belt, three AK magazines and pieces of another AK-47 rifle.

Gunships of the **174th Aviation Company** discovered one dead VC southwest of Duc Pho. The kill was attributed to **D-Battery, 6-11 Artillery.**

Warlords" of the 123rd Aviation's Bravo Company, accounted for two more kills in the area of operations.

Later in the week "Sharks" of the **174th Aviation Company,** observed five to six enemy soldiers with packs in the foothills west of Quang Ngai City. The gunships engaged the enemy and then inserted **Delta Company, 3-1st Infantry.** One VC kill was credited to the **174th Aviation Company** and four were credited to **Delta Company, 3-1st.**

Recon patrol nets 4 VC

By Kenneth Perry

FSB 4-11 (11th INF BDE IO)

--An Eagle Flight made by ready members of a division recon platoon resulted in four VC killed and one captured southwest of Quang Ngai City recently.

The platoon, from the **3rd Battalion, 1st Infantry,** 11th Infantry Brigade, was inserted near a hamlet after gunships from the **174th Aviation Company** had engaged an armed VC evading to the south.

Sergeant Patrick A. Pickett, Glendale, Ore., said that during their sweep of the contact area, his squad intercepted three VC carrying packs and weapons.

It was fortunate for Sergeant Milton Booty, Zachary, La., that the engagement was brief and decisive. Not more than 10 meters away from him, Booty said, lay one of the VC with a Chicom grenade clutched in his hand.

One VC was caught while trying to change clothes by Sergeant Donald E. Bradshaw.

79 enemy soldiers
die in light action

By SP4 Dave Goodrich

CHU LAI (23rd INF DIV IO) - Action was light this week, which ended with 79 enemy killed and large amounts of rice and munitions captured. In action south of Chu Lai, the "Ready Rifles" of the **1st Battalion, 52nd Infantry,** 198th Brigade accounted for 11 enemy killed in on action as part of Operation Geneva Park.

Frederick Hill...Omitted.....

Iron Mountain

The 11th Infantry Brigade was credited with 21 enemy kills. In the most significant action. Shark gunships of the **174th Aviation Company** spotted five VC in the mountains Northwest of Duc Pho. The **gunships** engaged the VC with miniguns, resulting in five dead VC.

Earlier in the week, the men of Company A, 1st Battalion, 20th Infantry extracted about 2,600 pounds of unpolished rice to Brigade S-5.

In two separate actions, "Warlords" of the **174th Aviation** [Note: the "Warlords" were B/123rd Aviation Bn, the "Sharks" were 174th Aviation Company] accounted for two additional enemy killed in action. **Company C, 4th Battalion, 3rd Infantry** killed (Continued Page 6) **Ready Rifles net 14 KIA** (Continued from page 1) three NVA after hearing movement to their front.

Earlier in the week, **Company A and Company C of the 4th Battalion, 21st Infantry** were each credited with a KIA in two separate action.

Various elements of the **1st Battalion, 20th Infantry** accounted for seven enemy KIA, and found about 1,000 pounds of unpolished rice during the week.

Geneva Park -...Omitted.....

Air-ground attack accounts for 11 VC

By SP4 Terry Williamson

LZ STINSON (198th Inf. Bde. IO) - Eleven Viet Cong were killed and seven enemy weapons captured as a company of the 23rd Division's 198th Infantry Brigade teamed up with helicopter gunships in a combined air-ground attack on several pre-selected enemy locations south of Chu Lai.

Delta Company of the 1st Battalion, 52nd Infantry employed one platoon to make aerial insertions into two suspected enemy locations while the rest of the company acted as a ground force to check out another location.

The helicopter-borne rifle platoon drew a blank card on their first insertion, but on the second insertion things quickly improved.

"We had just made our second landing when I received word over the radio that gunships had spotted two Viet Cong entering a bunker near our position," said First Lieutenant Daniel J. Boccolucci of Buffalo, the platoon leader. "We began moving in that direction until we found the bunker complex."

THe "Ready Rifles" maneuvered towards the bunker and received sporadic fire from the structure. Sergeant George Macaskel of Manhattan, Kan., moved in closer while the rest of the platoon covered him with M-16 fire. When the firing lifted, Sergeant Macaskel threw two hand grenades into the bunker and killed both enemy soldiers. A .45 caliber pistol was found near the bodies.

The platoon was then inserted to beef up the main element of **Company D** which had already made contact with another enemy force. Three Viet Cong were spotted trying to evade to a nearby woodline from a small hamlet. One of the enemy was killed as the infantrymen engaged the fleeing VC with small arms fire.

One squad from the **"Ready Rifles"** pursued the other two enemy into the woodline. Specialist 4 Larry Taylor of Valley Park, Mo., heard a shot from an AK-47 crack behind him and turned around to see two Viet Cong hiding in a foxhole. With a quick burst from his M-16, Specialist Taylor brought down both enemy soldiers and captured the enemy weapon.

By this time the "Ready Rifles" were receiving sporadic fire from the area of contact. A sweep was organized as gunships from the **174th Aviation Company** pounded the area with rocket and minigun fire. The infantrymen fired into the area as they moved across the sparsely vegetated terrain.

As the sweep continued, the infantrymen found one Viet Cong killed by the gunships and five more killed by their ground fire. Five more enemy weapons were taken from the area.

In all, 11 Viet Cong were killed and the **"Ready Rifles"** captured two AK-47 rifles, one SKS rifle, one SKS rifle, one grenade launcher, one carbine, one automatic weapon, and a .45 caliber pistol. All the weapons were extracted to a nearby LZ.

"The plan worked without a flaw," said Captain Perry Kaizer of Youngstown, Ohio, the company commander. "And the men reacted quickly to each engagement. I think it's a tribute to the company that the men accomplished this mission without sustaining one friendly casualty in the entire operation.

Division recap Action was 'moderate'

Action was moderate this week as the men of the Americal Division accounted for 84 enemy kills, with heaviest action concentrated in the Frederick Hill area of operations manned by the 196th Infantry Brigade

Frederick Hill – Omitted .....

Iron Mountain

Action was moderate this week as infantrymen serving in the 11th Infantry Brigade accounted for the deaths of 23 enemy soldiers.

Early in the week **Company B of the 1st Battalion 20th Infantry** observed and engaged two Viet Cong. The results of the action were one VC killed.

The **"Warlords"** of the **123rd Aviation Co. (B/123rd)**, observed one VC carrying a pack, in the foothills southwest of Quang Ngai City. They engaged him and chalked up a kill.

Flying over the lowlands southeast of Quang Ngai City, the **"Warlords"** again claimed four kills after engaging a quartet of VC later that afternoon.

Troops of **Company B, 1st Battalion, 20th Infantry** acquired credit for a couple of kills after a brief fight southeast of Quang Ngai City.

In the middle of the week, the infantrymen discovered 3,800 pounds of rice in the foothills southeast of Quang Ngai City. The rice was evacuated to Mo Duc.

Towards the end of the week, members of the **1st Battalion, 20th Infantry** caught two VC setting up a booby trap for their benefit. The infantrymen wounded and captured both of the enemy in the brief action.

Earlier in the week, a **"Warlord" gunship of the 123rd Aviation Company (B/123rd)** spotted and engaged two VC. The results were two VC dead.

Elements of Company **C, 1st Battalion, 20th Infantry** found one VC dead, believed to have been killed during one of the company's previous fire missions.

A day later, while patrolling the lowlands southeast of Quang Ngai City, the company spotted, engaged, and killed a VC.

Recon platoon of the battalion found six well constructed tunnels with a fresh water stream and an excellent view of the valley floor, in the foothills northwest of Duc Pho. They were destroyed.

Earlier in the week a **"Shark"** gunship from the **174th Aviation Company** spotted one VC in the lowlands southeast of Quang Ngai City. He was engaged and killed. His AK-47 was captured.

Company C of the 4th Battalion, 3rd Infantry killed an NVA and found two one hundred pound bags of unpolished rice alongside a trail while patrolling the foothills northwest of Duc Pho.

In separate actions, the company killed two more enemy later in the week, and then, while checking a base camp in their AO they observed more enemy soldiers almost too late. The enemy engaged them at 40 meters but the infantrymen recovered returning small arms fire and killing one enemy.

Within a period of four hours, the **4th Battalion, 3rd Infantry** found approximately 14 huts of which eight had connecting tunnels, in the mountains west of Duc Pho. Also found were various VC and NVA field equipment. The huts and tunnels were destroyed by the infantrymen.

A couple of days later, **Company D of the 4th Battalion, 3rd Infantry** observed one VC in the foothills west of Duc Pho. During the short engagement that followed, the VC was killed.

While moving through the mountains west of Duc Pho, men of a **recon platoon of the 4th Battalion, 3rd Infantry** observed three VC apparently setting up booby traps. Result of the action was one VC killed and one AK-47 captured. The next day, the platoon killed another VC carrying a pack at 300 meters.

Geneva Park -....Omitted.....

Pennsylvania Square - ...Omitted.....

Photo Caption: A member of the **174th Aviation Company** maintenance section performs and inspection of the power train of this UH-1 helicopter.

A member of the 174th Aviation Company's maintenance section performs an inspection of the power train of this UH-1 helicopter.

Division Recap

Weekly action--division counts 82

By SP4 David P. Goodrich

In moderate action last week, the men of the 23rd Infantry Division killed 82 enemy soldiers. All three brigades had approximately equal contact.

Hawk Hill - ...Omitted.....

Geneva Park - ...Omitted.....

Iron Mountain

Bronco action was moderate this week as men of the 11th Infantry Brigade killed 26 enemy soldiers.

The **Night Hawks of the 123rd Aviation Battalion** started out the week as they received small arms fire while flying over the foothills west of Quang Ngai City. Searching the area, they spotted, engaged and killed two VC.

Later in the day while reacting to a radar, the **'Night Hawks'** spotted two more VC in the lowlands west of Duc Pho. The results of the ensuing action were two dead VC.

Later in the week, a light observation helicopter from the battalion spotted a lone VC over the foothills southwest of Duc Pho. The LOH engaged and killed him.

In the same area, the **"Blues"**, an aerial rifle platoon of the battalion were inserted. The platoon rapidly engaged and killed two enemy soldiers.

Early in the week, while patrolling the lowlands southeast of Duc Pho, a recon element of the **4th Battalion, 21st Infantry** found one Viet Cong inside a tunnel. He was asked to come out but he refused. The tunnel was destroyed resulting in one VC killed.

The next day, reacting to a radar sighting, the men of **F Troop, 7th Cavalry [sic-8th Cavalry]** checked an area in the lowlands northwest of Duc Pho and spotted three VC. They engaged the enemy resulting in three Viet Cong dead.

During a patrol of the foothills west of Duc Pho, the **69th Rangers** engaged an unknown size enemy force resulting in three enemy dead.

While on a search and clear mission in the foothills northwest of Duc Pho, **Company B of the 4th Battalion, 3rd Infantry** engaged one NVA. He was killed.

Elements of the **4th Battalion, 3rd Infantry**, working with the **70th Rangers, an ARVN unit**, observed a small size enemy force in the foothills northwest of Duc Pho. After receiving fire support from the **6th Battalion, 11th Artillery**, the infantrymen swept the area finding four VC killed in action. Also found was a shotgun, an AK-47 and 35 huts. After investigating the area, the huts were destroyed.

A light observation helicopter teamed up with the fire support from the **6th Battalion, 11th Artillery** to kill two NVA and one VC over the foothills west of Quang Ngai City.

Patrolling the foothills of Duc Pho, **G Company of the 75th Rangers**, a long range patrol unit engaged two enemy soldiers, killing both.

On the last day of the week, a gunship from the **174th Aviation Company** spotted and engaged a lone VC in the lowlands west of Duc Pho, killing him.

PENNSYLVANIA SQUARE - ...Omitted.....

Division nets 48 enemy

By SP4 David Goodrich

In relatively light action last week, the men of the Americal Division accounted for 48 enemy dead, while capturing a number of others.

IRON MOUNTAIN

While action was very light elsewhere, it was almost normal in the 11th Infantry Brigade area of operations during the week ended. The troopers of Iron Mountain accounted for 21 enemy kills, as well as capturing supplies.

While scanning the foothills west of Quang Ngai City at start of the week, a LOH from the **123rd Aviation Company** spotted and engaged a lone VC over the foothills southwest of Duc Pho. The enemy was killed.

In the same area that day, the "Blues", an aerial rifle platoon of the **123rd Aviation Company** were inserted. The platoon engaged and killed two enemy soldiers.

A gunship from the **174th Aviation Co.** killed a lone VC over the lowlands west of Duc Pho.

Patrolling the foothills southwest of Duc Pho, G Company, 75th Rangers engaged two enemy soldiers, killing both.

A couple of days later, **Company C, 4th Battalion, 21st Infantry** engaged and killed a VC while in a day laager position. Checking the area, they made contact again, killing another enemy and capturing a rifle.

Elements of **F Troop, 8th Cavalry** (helicopter), spotted a VC along a roadside in the lowlands south of Duc Pho. He was killed and an automatic weapon was captured.

While patrolling the foothills southwest of Duc Pho, elements of **Charlie Company, 4th Battalion, 3rd Infantry** observed and engaged an enemy soldier. He was killed and a pistol was captured.

Later in the same area, the company spotted, engaged and killed another Viet Cong, capturing his AK-47.

Three Viet Cong Chieu Hoi'd and turned themselves into the 1st Battalion, 20th Infantry northeast of Duc Pho. All ralliers complained of inadequate food and a general apathy of Viet Cong goals.

An attempt to set a 250 pound booby trap was foiled when troops of **Bravo Company, 1st Battalion, 20th Infantry** engaged the enemy at 150 meters, killing him.

A gunship of the **123rd Aviation Company** spotted and engaged three Viet Cong, while flying over the foothills west of Quang Ngai City. All three were killed.

Working in the lowlands south of Duc Pho yesterday, Company C of the 4th Battalion 21st Infantry found five hootches with connecting bunkers, containing a small variety of VC equipment. The infantrymen also unveiled three spider-holes nearby. After a thorough study of the area, the hootch area was destroyed.

Frederick Hill – Omitted .....

GENEVA PARK - ... Omitted .....

Division sees light action

By SP4 David Goodrich

Action was extremely light during the week in the Americal area of operations as heavy rains and the New Year's ceasefire period slowed activity in all areas. In all, the troopers under the Southern Cross accounted for 31 enemy kills and a relatively large number of detainees and Hoi Chanhs.

IRON MOUNTAIN

The 11th Infantry Brigade killed 10 enemy soldiers during the week, despite no action during the first three days of the month.

At the beginning of the week, while patrolling the foothills west of Duc Pho, Company D of the 4th Battalion, 3rd Infantry engaged and killed one Viet Cong. An AK-47, a pack and 20 pounds of cord were captured.

Through the combined efforts of the **3rd Battalion, 1st Infantry, Company B of the 123rd Aviation Battalion** and Tu-Nghia MACV officials, 14 Hoi Chanhs were successfully picked up on December 31st.

Some days later, while working in the lowlands west of Duc Pho, **Company B of the 1st Battalion, 20th Infantry** detained five Vietnamese trying to evade them. The detainees were questioned by an interpreter and evacuated to Duc Pho.

In the lowlands northwest of Duc Pho, **Charlie Company, 1st Battalion, 20th Infantry** observed two enemy soldiers evading east of their location. The enemy was engaged with small arms fire killing one and capturing the other, who was wounded in the action. Captured were an SKS, a pistol and one rucksack.

The next day while operating in the lowlands northwest of Duc Pho, **recon of the 1st Battalion, 20th Infantry** observed 15 enemy soldiers. The enemy troops were engaged with artillery fire from C Battery, 6th Battalion, 11th Artillery and gunships from the **174th Aviation Company**.

A sweep of the area of contact revealed two NVA, who had been killed by artillery fire. Continuing the search the infantrymen spotted two Viet Cong which they engaged and killed. A short time later, the unit encountered two more NVA, killing them both. A seventh enemy kill was credited to the **174th Aviation Company.**

At the end of the week, **Company C, 4th Battalion, 3rd Infantry** found a total of 11 enemy huts containing an assortment of Viet Cong equipment, during a day sweep in the lowlands west of Duc Pho. The company finished their long day by killing a lone VC who was detected hiding in a tunnel.

In other action, **Company A, 1st Battalion, 20th Infantry** detained five Vietnamese while recon of the battalion detained two.

(Continued 1)

GENEVA PARK

Action was light in the 198th Infantry Brigade AO during the week. Nine enemy soldiers were killed during the week and brigade infantrymen uncovered a large weapons cache.

Late in the week, Company **A, 5th Battalion, 46th Infantry,** while patrolling an area northwest of Chu Lai, found a weapons cache apparently belonging to a heavy weapons unit of the enemy. Included in the find were two AK-50 machineguns, three other automatic weapons, three rocket-propelled rounds (RPGs), 25 mortar rounds, three cases of AK-47 ammunition, and 600 machinegun rounds.

The captured equipment was all extracted to Chu Lai. Earlier in the week. Company A had found a Chicom grenade, which they destroyed.

Also late in the week, **Company B, 5th Battalion, 46th Infantry,** working northwest of Chu Lai, observed and engaged a small group of enemy soldiers. The infantrymen killed one enemy and captured one AK-50 rifle, two Chicom grenades, two AK-47 magazines, a helmet and 20 pounds of rice.

While on a patrol southeast of Chu Lai, **Company D, 1st Battalion, 6th Infantry** engaged a group of Viet Cong with small arms fire at a distance for 200 meters.

The enemy evaded, but the **"Regulars"** swept the area and found and followed two blood trails. On further search, the infantrymen engaged and killed a lone Viet Cong and captured an AK-47.

Earlier in the week, **Company C of the 1st Battalion, 52nd Infantry,** while patrolling south of Chu Lai, killed one VC in a brief encounter. Earlier, the company had detained a VC suspect south of that location. He was sent to Chu Lai for questioning.

In other action in the 198th area, a doorgunner from the Division's **174th Aviation Company,** participating in a combat assault with ARVN forces, engaged an enemy element with machinegun fire.

Troops were inserted into the area and the ARVN infantrymen found six Viet Cong killed by the accurate fire of the doorgunner. Two automatic weapons and three packs were taken in the action.

FREDERICK HILL - ...Omitted...

PENNSYLVANIA SQUARE- ....Omitted.....

Division Re-Cap

Action is light

By SP4 Steve Elschlager

CHU LAI (23rd Inf. Div. IO)

- Action was light last week for the men of the 23rd Infantry Division (Americal) as 56 enemy soldiers were killed and several large caches were uncovered in the Army's largest area of operation.

GENEVA PARK- Omitted...

IRON MOUNTAIN

Combat activity was moderate this past week in the 11th Bde's AO as the 11th Bde's "Jungle Warriors" accounted for 20 enemy kills and destroyed several bunker complexes.

Infantrymen from the **4th Battalion, 3rd Infantry,** had five enemy kills in various action in the 11th Bde's AO this past week as **Bravo Company** killed two NVA with M-79 fire in the foothills south of Minh Long. Another enemy was killed as Delta Company, working near the Song Ve River west of Duc Pho, engaged and killed an evading soldier.

The remaining two kills of the **4th of the 3rd** resulted when **Alpha Company,** working south of Minh Long, engaged and killed them. Operating near the Song Ve River southeast of Minh Long, **Delta Company** detained two enemy suspects.

The 4th Battalion, 3rd Infantry had a very successful week in destroying enemy hootches as they accounted for 16 of the enemy structures. Found inside were 1,000 pounds of corn, seven automatic weapons and a variety of VC equipment.

An ammo cache consisting of five automatic weapons, four boxes of fuses, 25 60mm rounds, 16 82mm rounds an a Chicom hand grenade was also found by **Alpha Company** near the
Song Ve River west of Duc Pho.

The **1st Battalion, 20th Infantry** accounted for three enemy kills in two separate actions beginning with Delta Company engaging and killing two enemy soldiers in the lowlands southeast of Quang Ngai City. Two Chicom hand grenades were captured in the encounter. The other enemy kill came when **Delta Company** engaged and killed a VC attempting to set up a booby trap on a trail in the lowland northwest of Duc Pho.

"Warlords (B/123rd) of the 123rd Aviation Battalion accounted for eight enemy kills as they were patrolling an area northwest of Minh Long. Also, on four separate occasions, they discovered and destroyed four guts, a bunker and five sampans while sweeping an area west of Duc Pho near the Song Ve River.

In action that took place southwest of Quang Ngai City, gunships of the **174th Aviation Company** spotted and engaged four enemy soldiers. The enemy soldiers were all killed as a result of the action.

A total of 12 Hoi Chanhs turned themselves over infantrymen of **Bravo Company, 3rd Battalion, 1st Infantry** this past week.

HAWK HILL- ....Omitted.....

Regulars kill 4

By PFC Dale Wilson

FSB LIZ, (11th Inf. Bde. IO) - While operating in the Iron Mountain region, 11th Brigade Jungle Warriors engaged and killed two NVA, and "**Shark**" gunships were credited with an additional two KIA.

"I had split the company for extraction," recalled Captain James D. Davidson of Orlando, Fla., commanding officer of **Bravo Company, 1st Battalion, 20th Infantry.** "We were waiting for extraction when we got word that gunships of the **174th AHC** had sighted and engaged two NVA with weapons."

The 11 men of the company and 2nd Platoon Command Posts were extracted and immediately dropped into the contact area, said 1st Lieutenant Thomas H. Glover of Nashville, the company's forward observer.

THe infantrymen advanced on the woodline and found the two NVA bodies. "I was talking to the 'Shark' and trying to coordinate our movements," said Private First Class Leonard B. Smith of Kansas City, MO., CP RTO (radio-telephone operator). "The 'Shark' pilot said our people had found the two NVA, and he informed me that he saw two more crawling in the treeline."

Smith forwarded this information to Davidson who, with the aid of 1st Lieutenant Frank Korona of Uniontown, Pa., advanced on the NVA engaging them with hand grenades and small arms fire, killing both.

The **Syke's Regulars** found three AK-47's, one AK-50, eight Chicom grenades, and a first aid packet after the contact.

'Charlie Gunships' regulars over Laos

By Sp/4 Dave Goodrich

QUANG TRI, (23rd Inf. Div. IO) - "Flying a gunship is tough because the only time you're really needed is when somebody is in trouble or a mission requires flying over hot territory."

The speaker was First Lieutenant Robert Hackett, a "Charley" pilot for the **174th Assault Helicopter Company** (D Puniak Springs, Fla.) The guys around him nodded silently, as if to say "ain't it the truth."

A "Charley" (UH_1C) is the predecessor of the "Cobra", which has a larger engine. Still, a "Charley" has its advantages.

In the words of Warrant Officer Fred Thompson (San Fernando Valley, Calif.) "a 'Charley' has four sets of eyes, which means that it can fly lower than is safe for a Cobra.

Thompson was referring to the fact that a "Charley" comes equipped with two door gunners manning M-60 machineguns, which kind makes it sound like a "Slick", except that a "Slick" does not have 14 rockets (seven on each side), two miniguns (one on each side) and a 40mm grenade launcher in its nose.

A "Charley" flies a little slower than a Cobra, but in the words of Thompson, "That means you're over your target for a longer time." In addition, a "Charley" can engage targets directly underneath it.

The "Charley" of the **174th** have chilling red shark teeth painted over a white mouth, and their pilots are called "Sharks." Until quite recently they were regular visitors over Laos.

"For a while there," remarked Hackett, "everything we could get into the air was flying seven days a week."

All of this should have made for some memorable experiences, right? "Right On!"

"Dust-off asked if we were shooting up anything and we said no," he commented. The lead ship went over a ridge and said, "we're taking heavy fire!" When we went over the ridge we swung off to the left as the lead ship broke right."

Thompson's bird made a circle following the lead ship-powdering the area with rockets. He remembers "about 500 meters to the west we took fire. One of the door gunners looked down and thought he saw a caucasian wearing shades and a lime-colored shirt cut off at the arms manning a dual 50mm machine gun."

"He must have been just a tall, light-skinned NVA. Anyway we saw a flash in front of us, so we thought we'd taken a hit. A few seconds later, Warrant Officer Bruce Marshall (Nashville, Tenn.) in the lead ship reported taking heavy fire and getting hit."

Although Marshall's "Charley" swung out of control and looked like it would crash, he managed to set it down about 50 meters from the Ho Chi Minh Trail.

Thompson recalls, "we'd lost contact with Dust-off. We put the rest of the rockets around his area, landed as close as possible, and the crew chief and I got our [sic?] and tried to help Marshall and his crew get out of there. But we were pinned down by fire, and because of the triple-canopy foliage, we couldn't even get at them."

Thompson's ship finally made contact with dust-off. "We got in and threw off every kind of weight. We made it into the air, and found out the left minigun was jammed, but we put the rest of our minigun ammo around the downed chopper's position, he said.

"Dust-off got them out with a hoist, and we got everybody back in one piece, despite a .51 caliber bullet through the leading edge of one rotor blade. All in all, we were damned lucky to get back!"

Photo Caption: This Cobra gunship (***with shark teeth painted under the nose, like the nose art of the 174th AHC***) is caught in mid-air as he maneuvers for a run. (U.S. ARMY PHOTO).

This Cobra gunship is caught in mid-air as he maneuvers in for a run. (U.S. ARMY PHOTO)

F i n a l d i v i s i o n s t a n d d o w n s c h e d u l e d a t F t. L e w i s

By MSG Bill Pickett

CHU LAI (Special) -- The actual standdown of the 23d Infantry Division will not be accomplished until the last days of this month when the division command group will accompany the colors to Ft. Lewis, Wash., for the official deactivation of the unit and the retirement of the colors.

That action will bring to a close an enormous redeployment task which began in earnest with the announcement of the standdown of the **3d Battalion, 18th Artillery and the 71st Assault Helicopter Company** on Sept. 8.

Planning for the entire operation began much earlier under the supervision of the Keystone Operations Center, whose personnel were responsible for the coordination and scheduling of all standdown activities.

A personnel out-processing center was established adjacent to the Chu Lai Airfield, and this operation, although deterred one day when Typhoon Hester leveled the center, averaged 200 persons per day through its doors, destined for reassignment in-country or return to CONUS for further assignment or ETS.

Also in September, units of the **23d Medical Battalion**, and **maintenance and engineer companies** began standdown, many utilizing the facilities of the Division Combat Center or the former 27th Surgical Hospital area through which most of the division members would pass during their standdown period. These locations were provided [to] exchange and club facilities to serve Americal soldiers during their standdown.

On Sept. **17, H Troop, 17th Cavalry** began its standdown, and during October most maneuver elements of the division also began their standdown operations.

It was during this period that Task Force Americal began to take shape under the command of Colonel Robert J. Malloy, former DISCOM commander. Mission of Task Force Americal (TFA) was to prevent the enemy from establishing bases from which to rocket Chu Lai Combat Base and to keep the enemy from massing troops for attack.

Major units standing down during October included **4th Battalion, 31st Infantry** and **1st Battalion, 20th Infantry** on Oct. 5, and **3d Battalion, 1st Infantry and the 123d Assault Support Helicopter Company** [Note this must be a typo. 132nd Assault Support Helicopter Company (Hercules) is likely the correct unit.] Oct 7.

The 11th Brigade and its **1st Battalion, 52nd Infantry** began standdown on Oct. 10. Two aviation battalions, the **14th Combat Aviation Battalion** and **123d Aviation Battalion**, went into standdown on Oct. 14.

Between Oct. 15 and 18, the **4th Battalion, 3rd Infantry; 174th Assault Helicopter Company and 23d Medical Battalion**, minus, commenced standdown.

Headquarters and Headquarters Company of the 198th Infantry Brigade began standdown Oct. 19, followed on Oct. 22 by 23d Administrative Company and on Oct. 23 by the 16th Combat Aviation Group.

Between Oct. 24 and 30, those units of **Division Artillery** which had not begun standdown were returned to rear areas to begin processing and on Oct 30, Headquarters and Headquarters Battery of Division Artillery closed out its mission as it received standdown instructions.

The **1st Battalion, 6th Infantry**--which had been replaced in the mountains west of Chu Lai by the **3d Battalion, 21st infantry** maneuver element to commence standdown. When it was ordered to the rear on the last day of October.

Division support units, including **the 23d Supply and Transportation Battalion, 26th Engineer Battalion, 723d Maintenance Battalion and Division Support Command** began standdown during the first week in November.

Division **Headquarters and Headquarters Company was the final unit** to conduct standdown activities, and as the colors are escorted to CONUS last this month, only the 196th Infantry Brigade, under the command of Brigadier General Joseph C. McDonough, remains.

The following articles related to the 174th Aviation Company come from the 11th Brigade newsletter, The "Trident". Approximately 54 issues of the "Trident" are available from the ADVA historian.

Onlly Pages 3-4 of the 11th Bde Trident were located on the Texas Tech Vietnam Research Center web-site. The date of the issue was not available. An article in this publication also appeared in a February 1968 issue of the Pacific Stars & Stripes. So this was most likely published sometime in the January-February 1968 time frame.

Missing page 1-2 - "Barker" cont. from page 1.

camp. "There were about 75 newly constructed huts, Capt. Micheles reported. "They were probably rest areas for troops moving through the area. As we moved in, the enemy fled."

Navy gunboats, checking possible enemy retreat along the coast, killed 5 enemy as they tried to escape along the beach shortly after noon.

Four hours later, 1st Platoon, Co. B, received heavy automatic weapons and mortar fire. "We were pinned in a rice field by the heavy fire coming from the tree line, and had no opportunity to pull back," 1Lt. John B. Spraggins (Philadelphia, Pa.), said. Spraggins, the platoon leader, added: "I asked for volunteers to charge the entrenched enemy position. After concentrating artillery support, we made the assault against the heavily reinforced position."

As the enemy fled, the "Dirty Dozen" cut down 44 of the estimated 100 defenders.

A "Shark" from the 174th Aviation Co., piloted by WO1 James T. Cooney, Ft. Walton Beach, Fla,, flew three missions to medevac injured personnel while under heavy fire. During one of these missions, the "Shark" received automatic weapons and mortar fire from four directions (Cont. on page 4

I don't know how the helicopter got out. It sounded like all hell broke loose when it landed," Capt. Michles said.

After the 1st Platoon's daring assault, the 2d Platoon was also pinned down by intense fire.

"If it hadn't been for the accurate artillery fire holding the enemy in their positions, we would not have had a chance," Capt. Michles recalled.

The 1st Platoon linked up with armored personnel carriers commanded by 1Lt. James R. Oley, (Lafayette, Ind.,) of Troop E. 1st Cav., and fought their way to the 2d Platoon.

"Without the APCs, we wouldn't have been able to fight our way back to the rest of the company and get out of there," Capt. Michles said, adding that, because of the weather, "air strikes would have been impossible."

The units pulled back to secure areas for the night as artillery periodically pounded the area to check enemy movements.

Tuesday's major action began late in the day as Co. C of "Sykes' Regulars" again received sniper fire. Return fire from the company shot two enemy snipers down out of the trees.

At the same time, Co. A and Navy "Swift" boats were being shot at by snipers and automatic weapons from a village in the same area.

As units moved toward the village, two platoons from Co. C, led by 2Lt. William L. Calley and 2Lt. Steven K. Brooks, and another platoon from Co. A, were pinned down.

DUG IN

"The enemy was dug into holes and elements who went after them received heavy automatic weapons and small arms fire," LTC Barker reported from a forward position.

Contact was broken at 7:30 p.m. by TF Barker units when the enemy drew into defensive positions. Artillery was once again called in on the enemy to check his movements.

VOLUME 3 NUMBER 13 DUC PHO VIETNAM Apr 04, 1969

"JUNGLE WARRIRORS" NET 79 ENEMY KIA

"Jungle Warriors" saw heavy action this week as they killed 79 enemy, detained 32 suspects, and captured nine weapons.

On March 24, **D Company**, **3-1**, detained a MAM with no ID and later killed a VC nine miles SE of Quang Ngai City. A Company of, 3-1 killed a VC evading one mile NE of Duc Pho.

On March 25, **A Co., 4-21** clashed with an unknown size NVA force and accounted for five kills. The "Gimlets" later accounted for two NVA killed near a river. **"Shark" gunships of the 174th AHC** killed three evading VC five miles NW of Duc Pho. **E Troop, 1st Cav.**, killed two VC near a lake.

On the 26th of March, **A 4-21** accounted for three NVA kills including an NVA officer, and also captured an AK47 and enemy documents. B 4-21 discovered bodies of two NVA who had been killed by airstrikes (WRAP_UP CONT ON PAGE 3) (WRAP_UP CONT FROM PAGE 1) in rice paddies two miles south of QNC (Quang Ngai City).

On March 27, soldiers from **C Company, 3-1**, killed an evading VC and detained four VCS seven miles south of QNC ***[QNC = Quang Ngai City]*** . Also, "Sharks" killed two evading VC near Highway 1.

On the 28th of March, "Sharks" again saw action as they killed 13 evading VC near a trail six miles SE of Duc Pho. The VC were later confirmed to be a VC sapper squad.

On March 29, **C 3-1** detained eight suspects and **D 3-1** killed an NVA sold- (WRAP_UP CONT. ON PAGE 4) (WRAP_UP CONT FROM PAGE 3) ier near a stream two miles west of Duc Pho. They also captured one AK47 and two Chicom grenades. On the same day **D 1-20** detained to MAMs six miles NW of Duc Pho. The "Sykes Regulars" also captured three motorcycles and three unassembled bicycles along abandoned RR tracks.

On March 30th, **"Aero Scouts"** of the **123rd Aviation Bn.** killed 26 VC three miles east of QNC. "Always First" soldiers of **C 3-1** killed five NVA near a village six miles north of Duc Pho.

VOLUME 3 NUMBER 24 DUC PHO VIETNAM June 22, 1969

C O M B I N E D F I R E P O W E R Z A P S 6 9 N V A

Graphic art - Drawing of an F-100 jet fighter/bomber in camouflage paint dropping a bomb.

The combined firepower of the Army, Navy, and Air Force accounted for 69 NVA killed and 26 weapons captured, including 11 crewserved.

The **"Sykes Regulars"** were on a search and clear operation when they came under heavy fire while working in a valley. Automatic weapons fire and RPGs kept the company pinned down until **E Troop** moved to help.

"The terrain made it possible for only one or two of the APCs to get on line to assault the enemy positions," said SSG Gary T. Whitenack, (Harrisburg, Ky.), the 1st platoon leader.

"We were getting fire from three sides and some of the NVA were so close that when we moved through a hedgerow they were throwing grenades on top of the APC, but fortunately they rolled off," said SP4 Jesse Lewis (Haines City, Fla.).

One of the APCs was hit by a recoilless round. After the crew was rescued, some of the tracks pulled back and secured an area so that the wounded could be evacuated.

When contact was broken, the **Recon element of 1-20** had killed four NVA and captured one AK-47, **A Co**. five, while **E Troop** had four NVA KIA, a .30 and a .51 caliber machine-gun, and seven AK-47s.

CPT Charles O. Pittman (Benoit, Miss.) was in the air directing artillery (69 NVA CONT ON PAGE 4) FIREPOWER CONTINUED - PG. 1(69 NVA CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1) fire for C 1-82, when he spotted 12 NVA trying to evade. He directed fire which killed 10 of the Communist soldiers.

The next morning sweeping ARVNs of the 2nd Division found the bodies of 11 NVA killed. Later in the day, they found 19 more enemy bodies.

A Co. moved north from their NDP, and by noon had killed six NVA and captured a ChiCom machinegun and an AK-47.

Approaching a stream, the company began receiving heavy fire. "We were getting M-79, machinegun, and AK-47 fire," said SGT Joe Ditler (Sacramento, Calif.)

D Co. was assaulted into the area to help their sister company clear the area. In a little over two hours, **D Co**. had killed five NVA, and captured one RPG launcher, two AK-47s, and a ChiCom machinegun.

A seven-foot-deep trench extending almost 100 meters was found. Holes had been dug on either side every 10 meters. In the holes were found packs, weapons and assorted ammunition.

As **A Co**. was to be extracted, one of the helicopters was shot down, and security had to be provided for it. During the night, Spooky and Shadow provided the illumination for the soldiers. A **174th AHC** ship made a daring mission to provide supplies and ammunition for the men below.

During the night, three NVA tried to penetrate the positions, but were gunned down by the men of the **3rd platoon**, **D Co**. An RPG, a .30 caliber machinegun and an AK47 were taken off the dead NVA.

4-3 S T O P S N V A

In a recent action on LZ San Juan Hill, **D 4-3** warded off an NVA sapper attack, killing four enemy and capturing another.

The "Old Guard" soldiers were guarding the bunker line on the LZ, and one of the sappers tripped a flare.

As the flare went off, the rest of the enemy opened up with RPGs and automatic weapons fire. The barrage was returned by the soldiers in the bunkers.

A flare ship from the **174th AHC** was then called to the scene and illumination which it provided forced the NVA to stay within the wire until daybreak.

An early morning sweep netted four NVA killed, and the capture of the fifth.

Two AKs with folding stocks, one RPG launcher, 28 ChiCom grenades, four RPG rounds and 3 AK-47 magazines were captured in the action.

VOLUME 3 NUMBER 35? DUC PHO, VIETNAM SUNDAY September 21, 1969

11TH BDE WRAP-UP

Action was moderate in Southern Quang Ngai Province this past week as the 11th Brigade's Jungle Warriors", killed 40 enemy soldiers, detained 46 VCS and captured 5 weapons.

The "Warlords" of **B Co., 123rd Aviation Bn.** opened the week by capturing a VCS six miles southwest of Duc Pho. He was military age and did not have an ID.

The "Warlords" continued operation the next day and killed two VC and captured nine VCS five miles south of here. Nine miles southwest of Duc Pho a team of Rangers from **G Co., 75th Rangers** working under the operational control of the 11th Bde. killed on VC on their first day of operation and killed three NVA on the second day and captured an AK47, AK56, 9mm pistol and some documents. In a joint operation involving RF and PF forces the "Sharks of the **174th AHC** provided air support to the ground unit and killed four NVA 11 miles northwest of Duc Pho.

Ten miles northwest of Duc Pho a basecamp was discovered by the "Warlords" spotted from the air. A VC was killed as he tried to run from the area. The men of **Alpha Co., 4-21,** killed one NVA 13 miles south of Duc Pho during their search and clear operations.

The men of **Alpha Co., 4-3,** sprung an ambush on four NVA 11 miles west of Duc Pho killing two of the enemy. That same afternoon **A Co., 4-3** called in artillery on six NVA as they moved into the unit's old NDP site killing two of the enemy. In the afternoon the men set up an ambush nine miles west of Duc Pho and killed three NVA as they walked into the kill zone.

The **Recon** element of **4-21,** finished off the week's action by capturing eight VCS one mile southeast of here and sending them to Bronco. Early in the afternoon they detained another VCS and sent him in for questioning. Just before dusk the Recon element engaged an NVA and VC force that had been dodging the unit off and on all day long. By accurate small arms fire and artillery and gunship fire the men killed six NVA and four VC during the encounter.

(Copies donated by Author Jack Head, a veteran of 4/21 Inf. Bn. (2013))
11TH INFANTRY BRIGADE
TRIDENT
"JUNGLE WARRIORS"
VOLUME 3 NUMBER 37 DUC PHO, VIETNAM SUNDAY OCTOBER 12, 1969

11TH BDE WRAP-UP

Action was light this past week for the "Jungle Warriors" as they accounted for
22 enemy killed, nine detained, and two weapons captured.

On Oct. 11th the men of **B Co., 4-3,** found a hidden tunnel while operating in an area 12 miles west of Duc Pho. After hollering into the tunnel and not receiving an answer the men threw in a grenade and then went inside to search it out. Inside they found one VC had been killed by the grenade and also found digging tools. Later in the day the **2nd platoon** of **B Co., 1-20,** found a complete metal working shop one mile west of Duc Pho. Powder and explosives indicated that this was a fully-equipped VC mine factory.

The next day **D Co., 3-1,** captured one VCS who was spotted moving around to the right side of their NDP. The man did not have an ID or weapon. Later in the day **D Co., 4-21,** moved into a ville six miles south of here and spotted one man running from the ville. He was engaged, with small arms fire.

On Monday the Command and Control chopper for the **1-20,** picked up two VCS two miles northeast of Duc Pho. About an hour later the Recon platoon of **4-21,** made contact with five NVA 14 miles south of Duc Pho. When contact was broken a sweep of the area showed that one NVA had been killed. A young man clad in black pajamas tried to evade from the men of **B Co., 1-20,** but was killed by accurate small arms fire in an area two miles west of Duc Pho. In the last action of the day the Command and Control chopper for 4-3, received small arms fire from a ground position 12 miles northwest of here. They stayed in the area and directed mortar fire onto the enemy position. A low-level pass showed that one NVA had been killed.

On the 13th, the Warlords of **B Co., 123rd Aviation Bn.** killed four enemy in early morning action. In the afternoon they killed two more enemy brining their total to six for the day. Two VCS were discovered hiding in a tree trying to watch the activities of **A Co., 1-20.** The two men said they belonged to the Farmers Association. (CONT'D PAGE 4) WRAP UP CONT'D

The following day a sweep of the area outside their NDP showed that one VC had been killed when he set of a trip flare outside the perimeter of **B Co., 3-1.** In a similar incident **B Co., 1-20,** found that they had killed one NVA during the night and also captured his weapon. Four miles north of Duc Pho the Recon platoon of 1-20 engaged an element of NVA killing two of the enemy.

Thursday morning the Shark gunships of the **174th Assault Helicopter Co.** killed one evading VC 19 miles north of Duc Pho. In the only other action of the day **B Co., 4-3,** engaged a squad of VC ten miles west of Duc Pho. When contact was broken they found four VC killed and captured an AK44 and four rucksacks.

The last day, **C Co., 4-21,** detained two VCS about 25 years of age who tried to evade from the unit. A short time later in the same area they engaged and killed one NVA and captured the enemy's pack. At noon two VC were spotted by **B Co., 4-3,** at the unit's old NDP site. Artillery was directed against the enemy killing one. **C Co., 4-3,** engaged and killed an NVA ten miles west of here as they moved through the area. The last action occurred when a leader of a Youth Organization was captured by **Alpha 1-20.**

11TH INFANTRY BRIGADE
TRIDENT
"JUNGLE WARRIORS"
VOLUME IV NUMBER 6 DUC PHO, VIETNAM MONDAY FEBRUARY 9, 1970

174TH COMBINE WITH ARVN'S, KILL 34

(Illustration of a **174th AHC Shark** making a gun run)

FSB BRONCO -- The 4th Battalion of the **4th ARVN Regiment** and the **174th Aviation Company** are teaming up as an unbeatable combination. In their most recent operation they combined to kill 34 NVA and VC, detained seven VC, captured 60 Chicom grenades and five AK-47's.

Based on intelligence and visual sightings of NVA moving along trails, the **4th Bn.** was airlifted into an area ten miles south of Quang Ngai City by the **174th Avn. Co**. Captain John Gibbons (Sayville, N.J.) led a flight of ten "Dolphin" utility ships into five separate landing zones and then divided the flight into sections of two ships to insert the 4th ARVN Recon Company.

One section of aircraft, carrying a squad of ARVN, came under intense automatic weapon fire. Both crafts took hits but were able to land and discharge their troops, as the squad of ARVN assaulted the unknown force, the lift ship put down suppressive fire and called for gunship support. The Air Mission Commander, Captain Stephen S. Riddle (Ashville, N.C.) immediately called for three lift ships to make an insertion of reinforcements. With this quick reaction the ARVN were able to rout an NVA-VC platoon, killing 18 enemy.

Two "Shark" gunships covered the assault. Led by **CW2 Wayne D. Clark** (Camden, Maine) the Sharks destroyed 12 enemy held structures and provided covering and suppressive fire for the ARVN assault. During the action "Shark" **174** was hit by automatic weapon fire, wounding the crew chief, **SP5 Charles Coley** (Clarkton, N.C.). Though severely wounded in (174th Cont'd on page 3) (174th CONT'D FROM PAGE 1)
one arm and one leg, he continued to accurate suppressive fire on the enemy, firing his M-60 machinegun with his left hand. He refused evacuation until his gunship was relieved by another "**Shark**".

The Command and Control Aircraft, piloted by Major Virgil Blevins (Beeville, Tex.) and **Capt. Riddle** made six emergency medivacs for the ARVN's, and by close coordination was able to commit reaction forces quickly, greatly contributing to the success of the operation. During the initial assault eight VC and five NVA were killed in the landing zones and four AK-47's captured. Twenty Chicom grenades were recovered from the enemy.

This operation, like others of the **4th Bn., 4th ARVN Regt.** and the **174th Avn. Co.,** shows that the Army of Vietnam teamed with adequate support elements is a force to be feared by the NVA and VC of Southern I Corps.

11TH INFANTRY BRIGADE
TRIDENT
"JUNGLE WARRIORS"
VOLUME IV NUMBER 6 DUC PHO, VIETNAM MONDAY FEBRUARY 9, 1970

ILLUSTRATION - "GRENADE WRAPPED UP LIKE A CHRISTMAS ORNAMENT"

FSB BRONCO -- The "Jungle Warriors" saw light action during the week of TET killing 19 enemy soldiers, detaining 36 Vietnamese suspects and confiscating five weapons in southern Quang Ngai Province.

4-3 killed six enemy soldiers, 1-20 and **174th Aviation Company** each accounted for four enemy dead. **3-1** added three more to the total and 4-21 killed two enemy.

A Company, 3-1 discovered a VC basecamp while sister element, **Company C,** uncovered a VC grenade factory.

"SHARKS" CUT EIGHT IN THE GRASS

FSB BRONCO—"**Shark**" gunships of the **174th Aviation Company (Assault Helicopter)** were recently scrambled to the Song Ve River Valley, five miles northwest of Duc Pho, to engage a large element of NVA. The gunships accounted for eight enemy dead and a number of weapons confiscated during the operation.

Explained **Major Fredrick G. Blackburn** (Kansas City, MO.), commander of the **174th Avn. Co**., "I was flying the Air Mission Control (AMC) ship after directing an extraction of a ranger team, when I received an enemy sighting report. I radioed our 'operations' and scrambled a heavy gunship team."

The large, well-equipped, enemy element was said to be moving west to east at the south of the Song Ve Valley. Major Blackburn put down at Nghia Hanh. Civilian Irregular Defense Group camp long enough to take aboard the Australian military advisor to the 3rd Battalion 4th ARVN Regiment.

The AMC flew to the enemy location, the "**Shark**" gunships arriving on station at about the same time. A slope which ran down to the river was covered with tall elephant grass and thick with enemy soldiers. **Major Blackburn** skimmed along the slope marking enemy positions with smoke. "We took fire on this pass but the positions were now marked and gunships piloted by **Captain Stephen S. Riddle (Weaverville, N.C.) and Chief Warrant Officer Dennis P. Ellis** (Redding, Calif.) rolled in and engaged the enemy with rockets, machine guns and mini-guns," recalled Major Blackburn. (Sharks continued on PAGE 2)

Nightfall and heavy grass hampered visibility and operations. The AMC was then given enemy locations via an observation post near Nghia Hanh which could survey the whole area. The AMC, in turn radioed positions to the gunships.

A reaction force of the 3rd Bn., 4th ARVN Reg. was combat assaulted to the Song Ve lowlands and fought its way up the ridge to the south after the fleeing enemy.

The **Aviation Company gunships** were credited with eight enemy killed in the action which lead to the capture, by ARVN soldiers, of one AK-47, one carbine, seven packs, 15 rocket propelled grenade rounds, 10 B-40 rockets, and 25 Chicom hand grenades.

These are extractions made from the 1/20th Inf. Bn. Newsletter "Sykes Regulars".

THE EXCITEMENT OF STANDING ON A MINE

One night this week, the nine-man 3d Squad, 3d Platoon, was moving through a ditch enroute to its ambush site, five miles northwest of Duc Pho. The men were probing their way through the darkness, their senses keen and alert for hints of enemy movement, when PFC Dan Townsend (Baltimore) noticed more than his footfall on the damp ground—he heard the ominous, rasping squeak of two rusty wires making contact beneath his boot.

"As calmly as I could, I told the people around me to move away. Our Squad Leader, SGT (Wayne) Cook (Knoxville, Tenn.), came back, and I told him I thought I'd stepped on some kind of pressure-release mine. I wanted to jump off the thing, but he wouldn't let me. Then he called the E.O.D. team (Explosive Ordnance Disposal)," explained Townsend. The tension was heightened by the fact that movement had been spotted outside the squad's hasty perimeter.

In a matter of minutes, three ships from the **174th Assault Co**. were scrambled and in the air. A **Shark gunship** provided security for the **Dolphin flare chopper** that illuminated the area and the Huey slick that inserted SSG Robert Claar (Effingham, Ill.) and SP/5 Michael Beers (Nebraska City, Nebr.) to disarm the mine.

"We put a machete between his foot and the wire and filled two shirts with dirt to place on top of the wire to maintain the pressure. Then we grabbed him by the arms and yanked him away," related Beers.

After a short wait on a small hill nearby, the men went back to check out the site. It turned out not to be a mine after all—just a rusty coil of barbed wire.

"I was relieved," said Townsend in an understated comment on the fact that as one had been hurt.

These are extractions made from the 1/20th Inf. Bn. Newsletter "Sykes Regulars".

SYKES REGULARS
Volume 1, Number 14 LZ LIZ, VIETNAM December 10, 1969

THE GAZA STRIP – THE ENEMY ROUTED AND THE LAND CLEARED

On a clear day, the Gaza Strip possesses all the peaceful serenity of a calm and colorful California beach. But the people and the hot dog stands are missing-a reminder that the Strip has the slumbering potential of a major battleground.

Oct. 11, forces of the Army, Navy, and Marines began a massive land clearing operation designed to eliminate the sources of enemy activity along the South China Sea coast line north of Duc Pho. The Recon Platoon and Delta Co.'s 1st Platoon were "combat assaulted" by air onto the beach, eleven miles north of Duc Pho, after a thorough artillery prep by Shark and Dolphin teams from the **174th Helicopter Assault Co.** The two infantry platoons provided the initial coordination of land, sea, and air movements and secured the beachhead area where three of the Navy's flat-bottomed Landing Craft Utilities brought ashore the first load of several large land clearing vehicles—Army "Rome Plow" and Marine "Eimco" caterpillars.

Alpha Co. was moved onto the beach in a Chinook air movement from Chu Lai to assume the security for the clearing operations undertaken by the Americal Division's 39th Engineering Battalion and by the 1st Marine Division's 9th Engineering Battalion. Elements of A and E troops, 1/1 Cav., joined the operation later to assist in the land clearing and security of the men and machinery.

The Gaza Strip has long been a festering sore in the side of the agriculturally rich Quang Ngai Province. The fishermen who inhabited the Strip were constantly harassed by the obtrusive presence of the enemy and found their homes and livelihoods seriously undermined by enemy activity in the area.

Working with MACV and elements of RF, PF, and ARVN forces, the 1-20 successfully relocated the civilians from the Strip to Highway One, between the villages of Van Truong and Top An Doc. They have been provided with living quarters and an adequate supply of food. CPT Andrew Z. Lisowski, the officer in charge of the resettlement program said that the civilians are "adjusting very well to the relocation and their morale is high."

The eventual goal of the land clearing operation is to deny the enemy its supply sources, collection points, and base of operation in the Gaza Strip and to provide the means of securing the area for the fishermen and their families, unhampered by enemy harassment.

Tactically, the operation has proved to be successful. As the Strip was cleared to the south, the enemy's hiding places and bases of operations were destroyed, and they had to keep moving toward the mouth of the Song Tra Cau where they were eventually hemmed into a small area confined by the river to the west and south, and by the ocean to the east.

Alpha Co. took advantage of the enemy's limited mobility and in one week of sporadic contact accounted for 39 enemy dead, wounded, captured, or "Chieu Hoid" to the Allies.

To date, as the clearing operation moves south, past Tripoli, and out of the battalion's TAOR, the joint forces working in the Strip have accounted for 59 enemy dead, wounded, captured, or "Chieu Hoi'd." Six enemy weapons and numerous fighting positions and bunkers have been destroyed or captured. 45,000 pounds of rice were confiscated as well as quantities of medical equipment, ammunition, and supplies.

These are extractions made from the 1/20th Inf. Bn. Newsletter "Sykes Regulars".

SYKES REGULARS
Volume 2, Number 21 LZ LIZ, VIETNAM 2 June, 1970

GRUNTS ROUND UP VC

Tipped off by a Vietnamese boy, a "six foot eight" Charley company soldiers armed only with a bayonet recently detained seven armed VC guerrillas VC guerrillas during a rice hauling operation on the "Gaza Strip".

While transporting rice form a large enemy cache, a chinook received heavy sniper fire. Captain Edward J. Mullen (Youngstown, Ohio), commanding officer from Co. C, directed the first and second platoons in a search of a dense mangrove swamp where the shots came from. "Shark" gunships of the **174th Aviation Company** prepped the area with rocket and mini-gun fire before the advance.

Specialist Four Jimmie L. Dubose (Pachuta, Miss.), heralded as the tallest point man in Vietnam, inched his huge frame through the thick vegetation and found a small hamlet. Immediately an eight year old boy began pointing at a fortified bomb shelter whispering "VC". Dubose called to Specialist Four Elwood Vincent (Sulphur, La.) for assistance be fore checking the bunker.

With his bayonet in hand the giant soldier crawled into the bunker and retrieved a trembling VC.

Dubose continued to cautiously search the area and upon four 100-pound bags of rice, he sensed trouble and his young Vietnamese friend began pointing frantically at another bunker.

When he bent down to peer inside Dubose found himself face to face with an enemy soldier. The VC refused to surrender forcing Dubose and SP4 David Sowell (Sioux Falls, S.D.) to toss two grenades inside the hole.

Brandishing his bayonet once more Dubose squeezed into the bunker for the surprise of his life! Inside were six armed VC soldiers who had been protected from the blasts by a grenade sump.

With as much bravado as bravery, he rushed the enemy from their hiding place and into the surprised arms of his squad waiting outside the bunker. "It only took a few shoves and pokes from my bayonet to persuade the VC to leave," said Dubose.

While gingerly searching the bunker Sowell a hidden SKS rifle, a carbine and three Chicom grenades.

Finding and detaining enemy soldiers is nothing new to Dubose. So far during his seven months in Vietnam he has personally detained six other VC for a total of 13.

These are extractions made from the 3/1st Inf. Bn. Newsletter "Bronco Tribune".

BRONCO TRIBUNE

Page 2
Vo1. II No 21 Friday, November 14, 1969

BATTALION REENLISTMENTS

Co A

SP4 George Davis, six year reenlistment as a drill instructor
PFC Daniel Bengierni, 23d Admin
PFC Michael Spangler, D troop 1st squad 1st Cavalry
PFC Luis Vasquez, Co C 723d Maintenance Battalion
PFC Timothy Cook, 723d Maintenance Battalion

Co B

Dan Frentzel, 23d AG Clerk/Typist
PFC Vernon Jayne, 174th Aviation, Helicopter Maintenance
PFC Paul Pruitt, 174th Aviation, Helicopter Maintenance
PFC Carl Parker, Co B 3rd Battalion 1st Infantry
PFC Dave Bailey, 518th PSC clerk/typist
PFC Ronald Karr, 518th PSC clerk/typist
PFC David Bradley, 23 AG clerk/typist
PFC Dale Harris, Co D 723d Maintenance Battalion

Vo1. III No 13 3/1 Friday, July 24, 1970

Battalion Commander has a full day

C&C EVACUATES CASUALTIES

On 15 July, Colonel Roger A. Culbertson (Longview, Wash.), commander of the Third Battalion, First Infantry, utilized his command and control ship to rescue the injured crew of a gunship which had been downed while engaging enemy personnel southeast of FSB 4-11.

The hostilities had erupted earlier when two gunships from the **174th Aviation Company** returned the fire of five enemy personnel they had detected while on routine patrol. On a resupply mission at the time, Colonel Culbertson used his C&C ship to airlift a nearby element of Charley Company closer to the initial area of contact. The enemy's automatic weapons fire continued to be directed at the two "Sharks", however, and it was while making a low pass over the target area that a gunship suddenly burst into flames.

Within minutes, Colonel Culberston's helicopter was on the scene and soon afterward, his operations officer, CPT Graham (Columbus, Ga.) along with 1LT Bill Brumley (Dallas, Texas), SP4 Leroy Wilson (Lottsburg, Va.) and the ship's two door gunners, PFC Abbey and PFC Woodard were placing the casualties on board. All around them rounds were exploding as the munitions aboard the burning gunship was ignited.

With the nearest friendly element over 800 meters away, Colonel Culbertson and Captain Graham elected to remain on the ground so that the entire crew might be evacuated. Armed only their pistols and a radio, the two officers waited nearly twenty minutes before SGT Stephen Ridnour (Lynnwood, Wash.) and members of the fourth platoon reached their location. Reflecting on the situation, Captain Graham commented, "I only hoped that the Colonel was a better shot with the .45 than I."

A sweep of the gunships 'original area of contact had revealed one V.C. KIA, equipped with medical supplies. Also discovered were numerous documents and one AK-47.

"Always First"
BRONCO TRIBUNE **Page 1**
Vol. III No 17 3/1 Friday, August 21, 1970

ON THE FIRING LINE
Action in the 3rd Bn, 1st Inf AO:

August 19, 1970---

For the past several months, the companies of the 3rd Battalion operating near the Song Tra Khuc River have been plagued by one or more enemy snipers with grenade launchers. Assuming that it was one ubiquitous sniper, the men had dubbed their evasive antagonist the "Mad Thumper". Several companies had even considered offering a bounty for this weapon.

The "Thumper" may have been brought to bay by "**Shark**" gunships from the **174th Aviation Company** just south of the river. The gunships fire downed a VC/NVA with pack and weapon. After sweeping the area, Bravo Company's 3rd platoon captured the wounded VC along with his pack and grenade launcher.

BRONCO TRIBUNE **Page 1**
Vol. III No 19 3/1 Friday, September 18, 1970

SQUAD ROUTS ENTRENCHED ENEMY

Late on the morning of 3 September while on patrol along the Song Phuoc Giang River, west of Nghia Hahn, the 2nd platoon of Charlie Company engaged several enemy personnel they had spotted in a hedgerow. After that everything seemed to break loose all at once as the forward element of the platoon found itself pinned down by intense automatic weapons, RPG and mortar fire. The "Always First" troopers had come up against elements from a battalion sized force of NVA who were concealed within well fortified positions located along a U-shaped trench line.

While part of the 2nd platoon, commanded by SSG Dan Pritchett (Montgomery, Ala.), together with the 3rd platoon attempted to breach the enemy's defenses with several frontal assaults, a reinforced squad led by SSG Michael E. Eyler (Gettysburg, Pa.) managed to penetrate the far end of the trench line. By this time, two "Shark" gunships from the **174th Aviation Company** had arrived and began pounding the enemy fortifications with machine gun and rocket fire.

The gunships' close-in support partially relieved the pressure on those slowly advancing through the trench. According to PFC Greg Miller (Sarasota, Fla.) who was at the front of this assault, "We encountered foxholes and small tunnels every five meters. The gunships covered us from the air with the most accurate shooting I have ever seen. Our greatest resistance, at this point, seemed to be coming from the base of a large tree just to the right of the trench. As I was moving in closer, I heard a loud pop and when I looked down, a Chicom was right between my legs. Before I could move it went off and The explosion threw me out of the trench into the bushes." Both Miller and PFC Robert G. Cruz (Fresno, Calif.), who had also been injured in the blast, made their way back to the medic.

After a well placed grenade finally destroyed the entrenched enemy position, PFC Charles P. Callahan (Woburn, Mass.) supported by machine gunner PFC David F. Smith (Minneapolis, Minn.) continued to push forward. Around the final bend in the trench, the squad met with heavy resistance from a partially demolished bunker and several reinforced foxholes. PFC Smith having burned up the barrel of his M-60 machine gun after firing 2,400 rounds, grabbed the nearest M-16 and continued the assault.

The unwavering aggressiveness and sustained fire power of nearly a dozen men proved to be more than the enemy could withstand. The six hour engagement resulted in a possible 15-20 enemy casualties with Charlie Company being credited with 9 confirmed NVA KIA. The company captured 10 automatic rifles, 2 pistols, 1 RPG launcher with 7 RPG rds. Important documents were taken from one of the KIA's who was identified as Chief of Staff for the 60th Bn., 21st NVA Regiment.

"Always First"
BRONCO TRIBUNE **Page 1**
Vo1. III No 20 3/1 Friday, September 25, 1970

Two are better than One.

The primary reason SP5 David L. Struemke (River Falls, Wis.), HHC, volunteered to come to Vietnam was to be near his brother WO1 Charles W. Struemke, **174th Aviation Company**. SP5 Struemke, a mechanic, must keep battalion vehicles operable while his brother, who is a pilot, must keep a utility ship airborne and on schedule. They see each other at least several times a week and W01 Struemke has even had his brother as a passenger on occasion. The two are hoping that they can arrange to be on the same "Freedom Bird" home for Christmas.

[Notice that the name of the newsletter has changed to the "Legionnares'Ledger" from the "Bronco Tribune".]

"Always First"
LEGIONNAIRES' LEDGER **Page 1**
Vo1. III No 22 3/1 Friday, October 9, 1970

BATTALION NEWS

ON THE FIRING LINE

Enemy Caught With Pants Down

On an Eagle Flight southwest of Quang Ngai, Recon platoon was inserted near a hamlet after gunships from the **174th Aviation Company** had engaged an armed VC evading to the south.

During the sweep of the contact area, a squad led by SGT Patrick A. Pickett (Glendale, Ore.) intercepted two enemy personnel carrying packs and weapons. Machine gunner PFC David C. Bridger (Lyons, N.Y.) was the first to open up and it was probably very fortunate for SGT Milton Booty (Zachary, La.) that the engagement was both brief and decisive. Not more than ten meters from him lay one of the VC with a Chicom clutched in hand.

Meanwhile, SGT Donald E. Bradshaw (Winston, Ore.) was detaining a Vietnamese he had spotted attempting to change clothes. It would soon be revealed that a VC hamlet chief had been "caught with his pants down."

In less than thirty minutes, the platoons swift and well-coordinated action had cost the enemy 4 VC KIAs and 1 CIA with 2 AK-47s, 2/.45 cal. pistols, 6 hand grenades, medical supplies, documents and misc. clothing CIA.

"Always First"
LEGIONNAIRES' LEDGER **Page 1**
Vo1. III No 23 3/1 Friday, October 16, 1970

BATTALION NEWS

ON THE FIRING LINE

Action in the 3d Bn., 1st Inf AO for the period 7-14 October:

Under the VIP program, personnel from the 3d Battalion bought 20/105 rounds Vietnamese children had brought to the southwest gate of FSB 4-11.

Medics from 4-11 conducted a MDEDCAP in the Montagnard section of Tuy Muy [sic-My] in which 35 people were treated.

Just south of the Song Tra Khuc River, Recon platoon detonated an ambush which resulted in 1 VC KIA.

While on patrol several days afterward, the platoon found 6 automatic riles, documents, and an ammo can containing booby trap apparatus, blasting caps and tools buried in a hole along the river.

Working the Da Son Valley, the 4th platoon and CP element of Delta Company were in a stay-behind ambush at their NDP when they engaged 1 VC with claymore, M-16 and grenade fire. A check of the kill zone revealed 4 VC KIA.

The following day, gunships from the **174th Aviation Company** observed 5-6 VC/NVA with packs west of Da Son. After the "**Sharks**" had engaged the enemy with machine gun and rocket fire, the 2nd platoon of Delta were inserted into the contact area. Following a brief engagement, the men of "Dancing" Delta added 3 VC KIA to the 2 claimed by the gunships and captured 2 packs.

West of the Da Son Valley, Bravo Company was hit by small arms fire and several Chicom grenades. The Legionnaires immediately returned the fire and after the enemy had been driven off a search of the area turned up 1 VC KIA with a rucksack and medical equipment.

Later the same day, the 3rd platoon of Bravo was moving into their NDP when they discovered 40-50 lbs of unpolished rice in a steel container covered with a poncho.

This article is from a 4/3rd Inf. Bn. Newsletters:

O L D G U A R D

Vol. 1. No. 17 APO SF 96217 November 9, 1968

BN OPERATES NEAR LZ CORK **Page 1**

SPORADIC ACTION REPORTED

The Battalion continued its participation in the Brigade size operation west of Quang Ngai. The Battalion met generally light contact during the week, but, as one man in Charlie Company said, "We got the NVA on the run. It's just a matter of time before we catch up with him and really nail him."

During the first few days the Battalion was working on LZ Cork, the location of the TOC element, gunships and Aero Scouts claimed 10 enemy kills and two enemy captured. Gunships from the **174th Aviation Battalion** killed one VC and Aero Scouts of the 123rd Aviation Battalion killed nine VC/NVA and captured two. Three individual weapons were found near the dead VC/NVA.

Later on during the week, Delta Company discovered and old VC base camp. A careful search of the area turned up a large quantity of medical supplies, and several very valuable documents including an NVA strength report.

One man of the Third Platoon, PFC Orus Mooney, discovered a number of AK-47 magazines. The empty magazines were found partially buried in a hooch.

The following day, PFC Duane Dowing [Downing?] and PFC Irwin, both of the First Platoon, Delta Company, discovered three 82mm mortar rounds while searching a hooch. The two men also found a full box of AK-47 ammo in the same hooch.

On Friday, Nov 7, SGT Joe Williams of the Second Platoon, D Company, recovered an AK-44 rifle hidden in a hedgerow. The rifle was hidden by an NVA who was trying to escape gunships who were flying in support of the Company. The fleeing NVA was quickly mowed down by a hail of gunship bullets.

Charlie Company was also successful in finding enemy equipment and gear last week.

On Nov 4, just as darkness was setting in, Charlie Company came upon the remains of an NVA base camp. Although the camp appeared to be old and already burnt, numerous fresh sandal tracks in the area showed that the camp was being used quite recently by the enemy.

As they were approaching the camp several members of the Third Platoon, led by 1LT Lee Assadoorian, spotted two fleeing NVA with weapons. The Platoon opened up on the enemy, but no enemy kills could be confirmed.

The next day Charlie Company went back to the old NVA base camp and carefully searched it.

(Continued 1)

(Continued 1) **BN OPERATES NEAR LZ CORK SPORADIC ACTION REPORTED**

CPL Tom Britton and SP4 Steve Wentling, both of the Third Platoon, searched a long tunnel complex. The tunnel was about 150 feet long and interconnected into a number of smaller tunnels leading out from separate hooches.

While searching the two men found: an NVA pack, complete with NVA uniforms; several NVA documents; a large quantity of NVA medical supplies bundled inside a waterproof bag.

Through a combined effort of the Company, a total of nearly 300 lbs. of unpolished rice was discovered and destroyed.

That night Charlie Company set up in their NDP. Wisely, the Company set out trip flares for the night.

Shortly after dark, an unknown number of enemy personnel tried to sneak up on the perimeter and penetrate it, but the invaders hit one of the trip flares and set it off. The squad nearest the burning trip flare blasted the area with a Claymore mine and small arms fire.

About one-half hours later, SGT Jim Cooper, SGT Don Roberson, and SP4 Anthony Grigas ventured outside the perimeter to investigate. No enemy kills could be verified but the three men found large pools of blood indicating the enemy had been at least severely wounded.

Bravo Company spent much of last week under the operational control of the 1/46. While working with the 1/46, Bravo Company found NVA gear and supplies, and on at least one occasion, made enemy contact.

On Thursday, Nov 7, Bravo Company searched out an area which showed signs of past enemy activity. Members of the Third Platoon uncovered a total of 200 pairs of "Ho Chi Minh" sandals. PFC Ronnie Robertson of the Second Platoon found a large cache of rice in the bedroom section of ahooch. Another large supply of rice was discovered by the Platoon shortly afterwards.

On Thursday night the Company was in their night defensive position (NDP). First and Third Platoons had listening posts (LPs) positioned away from the perimeter to detect enemy movement. The tactic paid off. Both LPs radioed almost simultaneously to CPT Pryor, the Company Commander, that they were hearing a great deal of movement to their front. After the LPs were drawn back into the security of the perimeter, 1LT Michael Reid, the Company FO, called in a heavy concentration of artillery on the enemy.

While B 4/3 was op-conned to the 1/46, B 1/46 was op-conned to the 4/3. While working with the Old Guard, B 1/46 discovered an NVA communications base camp. Several large radios and a number of makeshift antennas were found after searching the area.

O L D G U A R D
Vol. 1. No. 23 4/3rd Inf. Bn. December 23, 1968

15 VC KIA IN SCATTERED ACTION, A & D IN HEAVY CONTACT

Last week heavy enemy contact by Alpha and Delta Companies in separate incidents resulted in eight VC kills and six VC captured. In scattered action throughout the rest of the week, 15 more VC were killed and 53 VC suspects apprehended.

On Monday December 16, Delta Company's First Platoon was on a combat sweep NW of LZ LIZ when they were hit by heavy enemy sniper fire. Pointman PFC Jim Patterson followed by SP5 Duayne Dowing, the Squad Leader and SP5 Bob Atkinson were the first to open up on the VC hiding in a tree limb.

"Sharks" from the **174th Aviation Company** were utilized by the men of Delta Company. After the "Sharks" pounded the area with 40mm cannon and 2.75" rocket fire, airstrikes were called in. Big 500 pound bombs gutted the enemy position. 105mm high explosive Artillery rounds continued to pound the enemy area after the jets left.

After enemy firing had ceased and gunships, jets and Artillery had done their job, First Platoon swept through the destroyed enemy position. The men found 6 VC killed in all; four by airstrikes, and two by Artillery fire.

Later in the week, Alpha Company also made heavy contact. Alpha Company like Delta emerged from the heavy fire fight with several VC kills but no casualties to any American personnel.

On Wednesday, Dec. 18 Alpha Company was returning to LZ Thunder after a combat sweep southeast of LZ Thunder. Second Platoon was sweeping across a large rice paddy when "crack" an enemy round whizzed over SFC Giddings head. SFC Giddings was leading one of the two columns that the Platoon was working in.

SFC Giddings answered the enemy round with a burst from his M-16, and in doing so, prematurely sparked the enemy ambush.

The Company CP group, led by CPT Fields swept across the rice paddies to aid the Second Platoon who were pinned down. As they were approaching the enemy position, a hand grenade popped out of a tunnel. The CP group dove out of the way and the grenade went off harmlessly in a puddle of water. CPT Fields tossed two grenades down the enemy tunnel which quickly ended the career of two VC soldiers.

Ten minutes after the Platoon was hit, gunships were raking the trench-line where the enemy were hiding out. Airstrikes quickly followed.

Recon Platoon came across Highway 1 from the east to aid Alpha Company and Bravo Company arrived on tracks from LZ Charlie Brown. Both units were on the scene to aid Alpha within an hour after the initial enemy contact.

(Continued 1)

15 VC KIA IN SCATTERED ACTION, A & D IN HEAVY CONTACT

Six VC were rounded up by the combined efforts of Alpha, Bravo and Recon. The six VC, all military age males were taken to LZ BRONCO for further questioning.

Elsewhere during the week a number of other VC kills recorded and VC suspects apprehended.

On Thursday, bravo Company was on a combat sweep with the First Platoon, A Company acting as a blocking force. Airstrikes conducted in support of B Company's one day operation resulted in four VC kills. A number of secondary explosions were spotted by HELIX while he was directing the airstrikes. One secondary explosion burned brightly for about five minutes, indicating that the airstrikes had hit a number of enemy rockets.

Charlie Company started the week off last Sunday by nabbing 14 military age males. The Company" policed up" the VC suspects while they were sweeping northwest of LZ Liz.

On Friday December 20 Alpha Company rounded up 59 military age males. The whole group was carefully screened by a Vietnamese Prisoner of War Interrogation team and it was determined that 11 of the group were suspects. The 11 VC suspects were sent to Vietnamese National Police District Headquarters in Duc Pho.

The week concluded on Saturday with Delta Company rounding up 15 VC suspects during a sweep south of LZ Thunder. Upon questioning one of the VC suspects turned out to be a VC Committee Chief.

THE OLD GUARD
Vol. 1. No. 24 4/3rd Inf. Bn. December 30, 1968

XMAS SHOW RES. 9 VC KIA

Last Christmas, Bravo Company witnessed two Christmas shows; one enjoyable featuring an all girl group known as the "Johnson Sisters"; the other not so enjoyable featuring the VC.

Early Christmas afternoon, most of B Company, led by CPT Jack Pryor, was down at the Naval base, Herd Stand, enjoying a show which was sponsored jointly by B Company and the Navy. The men were enjoying the all girl group, "Johnson Girls" (two guitars, an accordian, and a set of drums). The girls had been performing for about a half an hour, when rifle fire was heard from the bunker line facing east towards the peninsula. At first the girls were told that the men on the bunker line were merely "test firing" their weapons. The girls continued to play but expressions of doubt replaced the former smiles on their faces. As one man said, "As the gun fire picked up the girls' complexion continued to turn paler and paler." The men watching the show were a little skeptical too, especially when they heard rifle fire coming across the channel.

As soon as the first incoming rounds were detected, a man from the bunker line came running over hollering "get the girls in a bunker." No more needed to be said. The girls were whisked to the safety of the nearest bunker and the men grabbed their weapons and raced to the bunker line.

Several VC were nailed trying to swim across the channel to Hard Stand. The men in the tracks, the Navy, and Bravo Company teamed up to kill five VC.

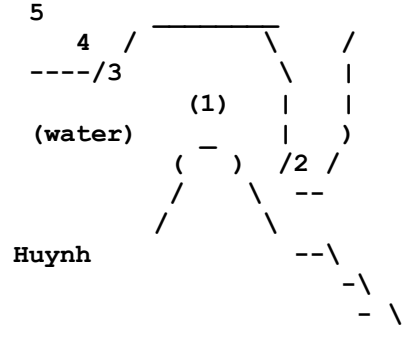
After the ten minute fire fight, the Christmas show continued. The girls were coaxed out of the bunkers and the men resumed their places in the audience. The girls, whose enthusiasm for performing was somewhat damaged by the experience, had competition for the men. While the girls were finishing up the show, gunships raked the enemy positions in the heavy brush near the shoreline. Each sweep of the "sharks" of the **174th Aviation Company was** greeted by loud roar from the men of "B" Company.

As the girls finished the show, airstrikes were directed against the enemy area further up the beach. One VC KIA was reported by the airstrike. The large secondary explosions were spotted by HELIX which was spotting for the fighter jets.

The following day, Second Platoon swept the area hit by the airstrikes to bring the total of VC KIA to nine during the Christmas Day battle.

The girls admitted that the show was definitely different than any they have performed in the past. They said it was an experience, but an experience they want to go through only once. They thanked Bravo Company for giving them the opportunity to perform but added that from now on they plan to restrict their activities to "more secure area."

Graphic: Map of area around Charlie Brown: 1. Hard Stand 2. LZ Charlie Brown 3. Location of VC attempting to swim across channel. 4. Location gunships. 5 Locations airstrikes.



O L D G U A R D
Vol. 1. No. 44 4/3rd Inf. Bn June 12, 1969

DELTA CO. AIDS 1-20

Delta Company reinforced elements of the 1-20 Infantry Battalion on June 3, making a combat air assault to a position five and one half miles northwest of Duc Pho. During a circular sweep of the area, the company received intensive small arms, automatic, and grenade fire.

In the initial phase of the contact, one small element from the company was successful in maneuvering towards the well entrenched enemy. 1LT Thomas N. Bedient (Bozeman, Montana) led three others, SP4 Dale Olmstead, PFC Barry Spring, and PFC Jerry Gruber, to the flank of one sector of the enemy positions.

PFC Olmstead, while walking down a trail, received small arms fire from a hut. 1LT Bedient moved to the rear side of the hut and killed the enemy soldier inside. As the group proceeded, they found two NVA packs and two gas masks. 1LT Bedient threw a grenade into a bunker, resulting in a secondary explosion.

With the arrival of gunships, the four had to draw back towards the main body of the company. As they were moving, PFC Olmstead fired his M79 and killed an evading NVA soldier. PFC Spring and PFC Gruber approached a camouflaged position from the rear, killed another NVA, and confiscated his pack and diary.

With the help of APCs from E Troop, 17th Cavalry [***Historian note, E Trp 1st/1st Cavalry was the armored unit that supported the 11th Bde. and there were H/17th Cavalry units from the 198th Bde that worked with 4/3d Inf. Bn. at times). There was no E Trp, 17th Cavalry operating in this area.***], and gunships from the **174th Assault Helicopter Company**, Delta Company was able to sweep the area in an engagement that lasted several hours. At the end of the day the company had killed a total of eight NVA soldiers.

BATTALION SUMMARY

At 0835 hours on April 26, Bravo Company was in a day laager position when the enemy initiated contact with AK-47s. During the ensuring firefight, one VC/NVA was killed, one ruck sack, one transistor radio and one green uniform was confiscated.

In the afternoon Charlie Company's first platoon was canvassing an area five and one-half miles east of San Juan Hill when it engaged six VC/NVA who were wearing blue uniforms and were carrying packs and weapons.

Late that morning, April 27, Delta Company was leaving its NDP, seven miles southeast of Duc Pho when it spotted three VC/NVA. The company engaged the enemy at 75 meters and a follow-up search of the area revealed that one VC had been killed. One SKS rifle, one canteen and on poncho was confiscated.

Later that afternoon Alpha Company's third platoon spotted five NVA swimming in the Song Tra Cau River three miles northwest of San Juan Hill. The third platoon engaged the NVA with M-60s, M-79s and M-16s. Following the fire fight, a search of the area revealed that one NVA had been killed and one was wounded. Moments later another wounded NVA ran into the fourth platoon and was immediately detained. The enemy soldiers were medevaced for treatment and interrogation.

One the morning of April 28, Alpha Company's first and fourth platoons found three AK-47 rifles lying in the Song Tra Cau River in the rough mountainous region three miles northeast of San Juan Hill.

During the late afternoon a Dolphin from the 174th Aviation Company spotted two VC/NVA, one hooch two tunnels and four water buffalo. During the ensuing engagement two water buffalo were killed but the enemy had scurried into the nearby tunnels and disappeared.

In the early morning hours of April 29, while Bravo Company was securing San Juan Hill, movement was spotted in front of Bunker 18. The enemy was engaged with small-arms and M79 fire with unknown results.

O L D G U A R D
Volume 1, No. 29 4/3rd Inf. Bn. 4 June 1970

RECON NETS 4

Gunships from the **174th Aviation Company** teamed up with a recon unit from the 4th Battalion, 3d Infantry and killed three VC/NVA and confiscated one AK-47 Rifle.

It was early morning when the recon team set up its ambush along an old trail two and one-half miles northwest of San Juan Hill. The squad was nestled in the bushes waiting for the sign that their ambush had been sprung while the sun steadily climbed to its zenith. Then, the sound of an exploding claymore with accompanying screams pierced the heat of the day and the members of the recon team knew that it was time to move down and check it out. "We were in an ambush site on the side of a hill overlooking a rice paddy when we heard the claymore go off, and as we looked up we spotted an armed enemy soldier dragging his comrade across the rice paddy toward the high ground on the northwest," said Specialist Four Randolph Gordon.

Upon investigating the site of the explosion, the recon team found one dead NVA/VC and three hastily discarded packs containing various food items. Following a thorough search of the area the recon team again moved out, this time toward the high ground and in pursuit of the enemy soldiers who had fled across the rice paddy.

The recon team had just crossed a small creek when another claymore went off to its right. "Right then, I thought we had walked into an ambush," said Specialist Gordon. The recon team moved out again, this time to check out the area surrounding the second claymore. Finding nothing, the squad again moved back to where the first claymore had detonated. "We had just crossed the creek for the second time when we heard movement to or front on the high ground," said Specialist Gordon. The recon team opened fire and then called in gunships while it moved back down the creek and set up behind a rice paddy dike.

The gunships strafed the area for about 30 minutes. During the ensuing contact, the machinegunner in the Light Observation Helicopter (LOH) spotted two VC/NVA laying in an open area. They looked like they were dead but they didn't have any bullet holes that the gunner could see, so when one of the NVA/VC flinched the machinegunner opened up.

When the recon team moved up the hill and investigated the gunship damage they found two more dead NVA/VC. One canteen, one belt, several first aid pouches, a pack of condensed milk, two hammocks, one AK-47 rifle, one five gallon can of cooking oil and several yards of green cloth were confiscated.

4/21 W r a p - U p

August 19: While patrolling an area north of Song Tra River, 34 miles north-west of FSB Bronco, elements of Delta Company discovered a mortar round rigged with a trip device. The round was set in a hedgerow, with a trip wire placed along the trail.

Later, the 4th platoon came in contact with two VC/NVA who engaged their patrol with small arms fire from 100 meters. the point element returned fire with small arms and M-79s. An after-action sweep of the area was negative. No friendly casualties were sustained.

The day's action came to an end for Delta Company as alert pointmen uncovered three more booby traps in the same vicinity as the first. Each of them was constructed with 15 pounds of plastic explosive packed inside a metal cylinder. The booby traps were placed within holes with trip wires over the tops.

A Bravo Company air assault from LZ Alice into an area 17 miles north-west of FSB Bronco resulted in one NVA KIA. **Sharks from the 174th Aviation Assault Company** spotted and engaged the enemy while orbiting the LZ. A sweep of the area turned up one more wounded NVA. It was later determined that the NVA were members of the 2/44th Transport Battalion attached to the 2/40th NVA Regiment.

reenlistments accomplished during the month of october 1969, with option and reassignment shown after each name, were as follows:

Reenlistment transfers from 4/31st Inf. into the 174th Avn Co.:

HHC:

2. SHANKEL, Glen A. – Aircraft Maint – 174th Avn Co.

C CO:

3. CROMER, Paul H. – Communications – 174th AVN Co, 14th Avn Bn

The Bi-Weekly Newsletter of the 16TH COMBAT AVIATION GROUP was called "THE FALCON". The cover had hand drawn titles and insignias representing the Americal Division, the 123rd Combat Aviation Battalion, the 14th Aviation Battalion, and the 16th Combat Aviation Group. The title was **"THE FALCON"** **"ABOVE I CORPS"** Text was typed (perhaps on mimeograph paper). THE FALCON" is a publication of the 16th Combat Aviation Group. Only a few issues have been located.

C O M B A T N E W S

Last week helicopters of the **174th Assault Helicopter Co.,** 14th Combat Aviation Battalion, flew two combat assaults, both led by **1st Lt. Thomas W. Larkin,** Towanda Ill., in support of the 3rd Battalion 1st Infantry and the 1st Battalion 20th Infantry, both of the 11th Light Infantry Brigade.

While flying a visual recon mission "Shark 060," a UH1C gunship commanded by **WO1 Robert Thomas**, Birmingham, Ala., reported six enemy killed in an areas northwest of Duc Pho. The well armed "Shark" spotted two of the enemy hiding in some undergrowth and made contact with them killing both.

On returning to the area, four more enemy were engaged and consequently killed. All of the enemy had full field gear, including green uniforms and steel helmets, and the ground unit operating in the area reported discovering a number of bicycles loaded with packs and an assortment of equipment.

In other action "Dolphin 519," commanded by **WO1 John O'Sullivan**, Brooklyn N.Y. reported receiving intense enemy sniper fire while flying a command and control mission for the 4th Battalion, 3rd Infantry, 11th Light Infantry Brigade. **WO O'Sullivan**, also reported sighting numerous concrete reinforced bunkers surrounded by freshly dug trenches and encircled by barbed wire, but no enemy troops were observed in the area.

174th Claims 7 Enemy KIA

(DUC PHO **174th AHC-IO**)

Recently on December 14, "**Shark gunships of the 174th Assault Helicopter Company** reported killing seven enemy soldiers.

Early in the morning while flying a scramble north of the Song Vea River, "Shark 590," commanded by 1st Lieutenant Robert R. Gamber, Collingswood, N.J. was trying to locate the source of hostile fire directed towards a Vietnamese Army camp. The camp had been taking numerous mortar rounds and light weapons fire.

Arriving at the scene, "Shark 590" saw two enemy soldiers situated in a fire position outside the perimeter of the camp, directing a steady stream of fire into it. The **174th AHC gunship** made contact and killed the two enemy.

Turning and flying around the perimeter "Shark 590" came upon a river bed that emptied into a small pond, and while flying over the pond, the gunner spotted a head bob to the surface and then submerge again. Going down to investigate, the gunship crew saw four enemy hiding in the pond and killed all of them.

The last kill resulted after the gunner saw still another enemy leaving the area around the pond.

Including the recent seven enemy killed, the 174th has accounted for 1,025 enemy killed since June of 1966.

VOL II NO 5 16TH COMBAT AVIATION GROUP, CHU LAI RVN MARCH 4, 1969

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1 7 4 th AHC, "A" Co. D E F E A T E N E M Y

DUC PHO, RVN, 174th AHC-IO

It had been a long night for the "Shark" gunships of the 174th Assault Helicopter Company, two scrambles, a rocket and mortar attack on LZ Bronco and finally a first light visual reconnaissance mission.

At 0800 hours on Feb. 23rd, the "Shark" crews were looking forward to some much needed rest. As they were walking from the flight line, they heard the familiar sound of incoming rockets.

Minutes later, four 174th AHC gunships went off the ground and scrambling toward the enemy positions which had been spotted from Landing Zone Liz, three miles northwest of LZ Bronco.

"We were rolling in on the rocket positions before the smoke cleared from the last launch," said Captain Robert Gamber, Collingswood, N.J., leader of one of the two "Shark" teams.

Warrant Officer Robert Thomas, Birmingham, Ala. noted, "Their launchers weren't in sight but it was the right area. We took fire on our first pass."

The enemy occupied area, about five miles west of Duc Pho, was hit hard by the gunships. Troops on LZ Liz directed one gun team to a woodline where
they had spotted enemy troops in fortified bunkers.

The other "Shark" team led by First Lieutenant James Towle, Palo Alto, Calif. was busy with an NVA twin-thirty caliber machine gun position.

"When we found that twin-thirty, we had expended all our ordnance but we stayed on station to mark it for the jets," stated WO Warren Smith, St. Louis, Mo.

When the 174th gunships finally broke station they had been credited with 50 enemy killed and 20 structures destroyed.

The Observer (MACV Newspaper)
Vol. 9, no. 6 Saigon, Vietnam June 12, 1970 page 1

Allies Halt NVA Attack

AMERICAL DIV. (USA) – The NVA recently lost 135 soldiers in its drive against the CIDG camp at Nghia Hanh. The emplacement – five miles southwest of Quang Ngai City – was the object of a regimental offensive. Had the attack been successful, Quang Ngai City would have been left open to assault.

The Americal Division's **174th** and 176th Aviation Companies (Assault Helicopter) and the 4th ARVN Regiment combined forces to block the NVA, dictating a hasty retreat back into the mountains.

Prior intelligence reports of the enemy's intention did little to stem the fury of the NVA mortar and ground attacks, however, "When we got on station it was hard to tell who was in possession of Nghia Hanh," reports Chief Warrant Officer Jarvis D. Gambrell of Port Arthur, Tex. of the **174th Aviation Company**. "Soldiers of the 4th ARVN Regiment had been airlifted in earlier and were in heavy contact."

Heavy ground fighting by the 4th ARVN Regiment and solid support from the helicopter gunships finally neutralized the enemy assault on Nghia Hanh, and the NVA troops wee forced to assume a defensive stance. They attempted to flee south to their sanctuary in the Song Ve River Valley, but were harried by the ARVN infantry reaction forces and American gunships.

The final blow was dealt to the enemy offensive on the western ridge of the river valley's corridor. Second Lieutenant John I. O'Sullivan of Brooklyn, N.Y., a 174th gunship pilot, explains that the gunship pilots' familiarity with the topography of the region was of great assistance in locating the enemy.

"A gunship passed over the ridge," he relates, "and the pilot noticed that it wasn't as bald of foliage as usual. There was a row of bushes in place that wasn't normally there. A second pass over the area revealed an AK-47 weapon attached to one of the 'limbs,' which lead the pilot to identify a camouflaged relief column of enemy soldiers headed for Nghia Hanh."

Major Frederick G. Blackburn of Kansas City, Mo. commander of the 174th, turned the gunships loose on the trail. At the same time, Lieutenant Colonel Le Ba Khieu, commander of the 4th ARVN Regiment, realized the enemy situation and organized a reaction force strike on the then smoldering trail.

The South Vietnamese credited the 174th with the destruction of a command post and confirmed that 135 NVA soldiers had died in attempting to raze Nghia Hanh. Seventeen were credited to the 176th Aviation Company, and 38 to the **174 Aviation Company**.

Sources available, but not acted on:

Each 11th Bde Infantry Battalion now has a compilation of material similar to this document being done for the 174th Aviation Company. In addition there are these items.

1/20th Operation Summaries produced by the late LT Chuck Seketa. These daily files are set up so they are searchable and can be used to locate incidents reported by the 11th Bde regarding the 174th Aviation Company. These items were not extracted into this document as there are significant numbers of entries that cover nearly a four year period. A set of 38 battalion newsletters have been accumulated by the ADVA.

4/3rd Infantry Battalion S2/S3 reports. There is a complete set of S2/S3 reports for the 4/3rd Infantry Battalion. This is a significant amount of reporting. Since these reports are not computer searchable it would take years to extract entries from these reports related to the 174th Aviation Company. Map overlays and operation plans, operation summaries and etc. are available for most 4/3rd Operations. A set of 80 battalion newesletters have been accumulated by the ADVA.

3/1st Infantry Battalion. Ä document called "The Hill" is available from "The Hill Association". I have updated this document to include materials prior to July 1969 and some additional information that was not available to LTC Leslie Stottle before he passed away in the 1980s after he had completed the bulk of the document. The ADVA version of the Hill is available and searchable to locate incidents involving the 3/1st Inf. Bn. and the 174th AHC. A set of Battalion Newsletters has been accumulated for the 3/1st Inf. Bn.

4/21 Infantry Battalion. A yearbook from 1969 has been located and a set of Battalion Newsletters has been accumulated.

E Troop 1/1st Cavalry. A yearbook from 1969 has been located. A compilation similar to this document has been done for this armored cavalry unit.

1/52nd Inf. Battalion S2/S3 reports. These reports are complete and computer searchable. There are some entries related to the 174th AHC.

5/46th Inf. Battalion S2/S3 reports. These reports are available digitally, but they are not computer searchable.

Operation Miracle. In February 1968 the 174th provided critical support to this operation that saved Da Nang from devastation.

Operation Napoleon/Saline – Early 1968 the 174th provided critical support to the 3/21st Inf. Bn. who was in a life and death struggle on the DMZ near Nhi Ha and Jones Creek.

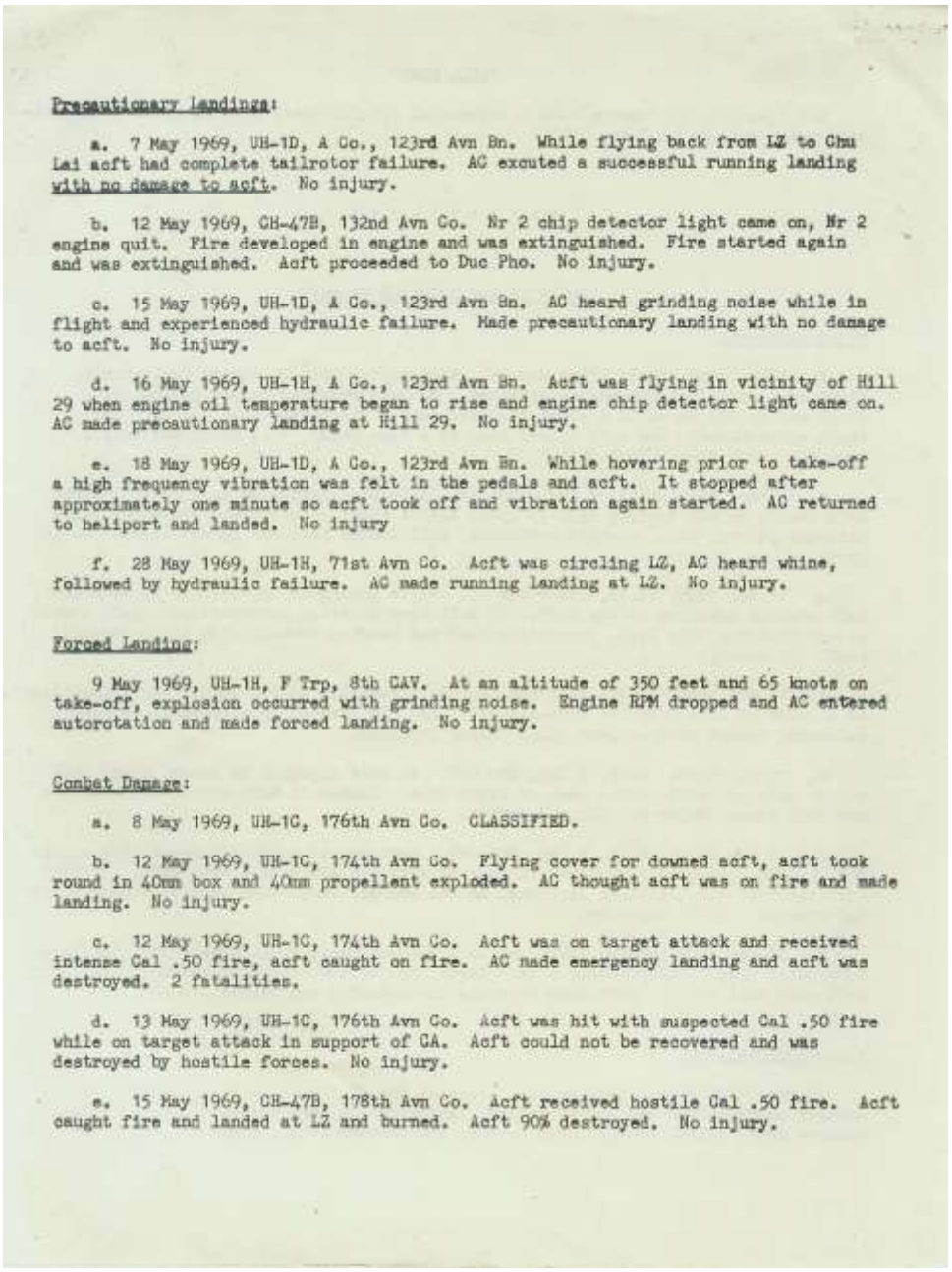
Available information of interest:

1) The Pilot's guidebook. There are guidebooks for 1967, 1968, 1969, 1970 and 1973 available from the ADVA historian. These have descriptions of bases that were capable of supporting the Caribou fixed wing cargo planes or greater. Each base is described and usually there is a photo of the base. Interesting comments are found, like "do not use the approach on the west or you will receive enemy fire".

NO PHOTOGRAPH AVAILABLE. USERS ARE ENCOURAGED TO FORWARD A PHOTOGRAPH OF THIS AERODROME TO COMMANDER 7651 ACIS, APO SAN FRANCISCO 96553.

DUC PHO, BS809384 14°49'N 108°58'E
VNA (A) 33 L 38(MX19) 02/20 60' wide
FUEL - A-1, J4 Ltd
AERODROME REMARKS - SECURE. Opr 2300-1100Z. Extv heli tfc, ldg area E of rwy. Hills on app to Rwy 02. 130' hill 800' NW of rwy, 480' hill ¼ mi E of rwy. Crosswinds fr E may cause turbulence. Prkg area 750' X 210' W side S end. 156' X 154' turnaround N end. 100' ovrn N end only. Type 2 for C-130, C-123 and C7A.
®**CHU LAI APP CON** - 321.0 118.3 (U)
TOWER - 230.9 118.9 50.2 Opr 2300-1100Z OT O/R
RBn(W) LOK 379 At Field
■ **RADAR** ® - Call DUC PHO GCA 380.0 118.1 43.5
RADIO/NAV REMARKS - ® Opr 2300-1100Z OT O/R. IFF/SIF avol. Glide Slope 4.6° due to high terrain S.

2) The Americal Division Safety Newsletter. Only one example is available. It covers the quarterly period ending in June 1969. It lists incidents by date and unit with a short description.



Precautionary Landings:

a. 7 May 1969, UH-1D, A Co., 123rd Avn Bn. While flying back from LZ to Chu Lai acft had complete tailrotor failure. AC excuted a successful running landing with no damage to acft. No injury.

b. 12 May 1969, CH-47B, 132nd Avn Co. Nr 2 chip detector light came on, Nr 2 engine quit. Fire developed in engine and was extinguished. Fire started again and was extinguished. Acft proceeded to Duc Pho. No injury.

c. 15 May 1969, UH-1D, A Co., 123rd Avn Bn. AC heard grinding noise while in flight and experienced hydraulic failure. Made precautionary landing with no damage to acft. No injury.

d. 16 May 1969, UH-1H, A Co., 123rd Avn Bn. Acft was flying in vicinity of Hill 29 when engine oil temperature began to rise and engine chip detector light came on. AC made precautionary landing at Hill 29. No injury.

e. 18 May 1969, UH-1D, A Co., 123rd Avn Bn. While hovering prior to take-off a high frequency vibration was felt in the pedals and acft. It stopped after approximately one minute so acft took off and vibration again started. AC returned to heliport and landed. No injury

f. 28 May 1969, UH-1H, 71st Avn Co. Acft was circling LZ, AC heard whine, followed by hydraulic failure. AC made running landing at LZ. No injury.

Forced Landing:

9 May 1969, UH-1H, F Trp, 8th CAV. At an altitude of 350 feet and 65 knots on take-off, explosion occurred with grinding noise. Engine RPM dropped and AC entered autorotation and made forced landing. No injury.

Combat Damage:

a. 8 May 1969, UH-1C, 176th Avn Co. CLASSIFIED.

b. 12 May 1969, UH-1C, 174th Avn Co. Flying cover for downed acft, acft took round in 40mm box and 40mm propellant exploded. AC thought acft was on fire and made landing. No injury.

c. 12 May 1969, UH-1C, 174th Avn Co. Acft was on target attack and received intense Cal .50 fire, acft caught on fire. AC made emergency landing and acft was destroyed. 2 fatalities.

d. 13 May 1969, UH-1C, 176th Avn Co. Acft was hit with suspected Cal .50 fire while on target attack in support of CA. Acft could not be recovered and was destroyed by hostile forces. No injury.

e. 15 May 1969, CH-47B, 178th Avn Co. Acft received hostile Cal .50 fire. Acft caught fire and landed at LZ and burned. Acft 90% destroyed. No injury.

3) Col. James McDaniel helped obtain a good video of the 174th AHC helicopters from 1969-70. I have been providing copies of this video to the ADVA members who were 11th Bde veterans for a number of years. There are a few other videos I have for the 174th, but none are as good as this one. It shows Sharks firing rockets and flying around LZ Bronco.

4) Maps. Maps of the area from Chu Lai to LZ Charlie Brown have been pieced together. A map of the Kham Duc, Da Nang area, Nhi Ha, Lam Son 719, Hiep Duc Valley, Chu Lai areas and any place the Americal Division units served are available. Maps could be made for any location in Vietnam, Laos, or Cambodia if a grid coordinate or with the name of a FSB or landing zone can be provided. Major LZs have been marked and then the maps have been printed. The color maps have been provided to hundreds of veterans at this point. The maps are usually done in a size that is around 35" inches in width so they fit in a mailing tube. Custom maps are often done to show the location of incidents. These are done on a local printer at a "13 x 19" size.

5) Some 21"x21" size **3D maps** of Vietnam have been done for the Americal Division Veterans' Association. Set up work has been done so that reasonably priced copies can be made. The ones that might be of most interest to the 174th AHC are San Juan Hill, LZ Cork, and Kham Duc. Also, LZ Mary Ann, Hiep Duc Valley, LZ Professional-East, LZ West have been done. A copy might be made for under $150.00. A map can literally be made of any location in the world. The maps are great if the AO has steep terrain, but are not much of an improvement over 2D maps if the terrain is flat.
3D Maps have been loaned or given to support reunions and we are looking to place some maps in military museums.

A yearbook was created for the men of the 16th Combat Aviation Group in 1970. In the yearbook is a section for the 14th Combat Aviation Battalion which includes some information regarding the 174th Aviation Company. (This history did not include anything past the publish date in 1970.)

14th COMBAT AVIATION BATTALION (1970 16th Combat Aviation Group Album)

UNIT - HISTORY

The 14th Aviation Battalion (Combat), only a little over five years old, has a short but diverse history, having served all but two months of its existence in Vietnam.

The unit was constituted 2 September 1964 and activated the following day at Fort Benning, Georgia for ultimate assignment to Vietnam in October.

Upon arrival in Vietnam the battalion set up headquarters in Nha Trang and was completely operational by 1 November as a fixed wing unit.

Torrential rains hit Vietnam soon thereafter causing one of the worst floods in Vietnamese history. 5000 Vietnamese perished in the floods and hundreds of thousands were left homeless and stranded. The 14th's 18th and 92d Aviation Companies (Fixed Wing), just getting their feet wet in Vietnam, spent the first two weeks of November 1964 flying evacuation and food and medical relief supply missions for the displaced and homeless in I and II Corps.

As a fixed wing unit, with nine companies dispersed throughout Vietnam, from Hue in northern I Corps to Can Tho in the Mekong Delta, the 14th's missions consisted of general aviation support to U.S. and ARVN forces. This support was provided in the form of reconnaissance, airborne communications, aerial surveillance and the airlift of personnel, material and supplies.

Throughout 1965 and into early 1966 the 14th Battalion continued its responsibility of long distance cargo hauling, regular VIP and passenger flights and increased reconnaissance and resupply for the many Special Forces camps throughout I and II Corps.

In April 1966 the 14th entered a transition period exchanging its fixed wing companies for assault helicopter companies and being redesignated a combat aviation battalion.

The 14th left Nha Trang shortly thereafter for new headquarters at Lane Army Heliport west of Qui Nhon with three new assault helicopter companies: The 161st, 174th and 282d. In September 1966 the remaining fixed wing companies were detached.

(Continued)

(Continued) 14th Combat Aviation Battalion History from the 1970 16th Combat Aviation Group yearbook.

The 14th's obligation were dispersed from Phan/Thiet to the DMZ and from the Cambodia/Laos border to the coast in support of Korean, MACV and various U.S. Army Units.

Both the 161st and the 174th supported Special Forces projects on numerous occasions from June 1966 to late fall of the same year.

In the spring of 1967 the 176th Assault Helicopter Company and the 196th Assault Support Helicopter Company joined the Battalion. The 196th afforded the 14th its first organic CH-47 Chinooks.

The 14th moved to its present location in Chu Lai in mid April 1967 to support Task Force Oregon. At the time the 282d and the 196th Aviation Companies were replaced by the 71st AHC and the 178th ASHC aviation companies respectively.

The year found the 14th supporting operations for armies of three nations. The U.S. forces included separate brigades of the 101st Airborne, 1st Air Cav, composing the newly formed Americal Division. The 14th also supported many operations for the Korean 9th ROK (White Horse) Division, and the 22d ARVN Division. With the addition of the distinction of being the largest aviation battalion operating in Vietnam with close to 1600 personnel and 129 aircraft assigned.

Operations during 1969 and up to the present have centered around the support of the Americal's 196th, 198th and 11th Infantry Brigades and the 2d ARVN Division with the main obligations being; resupply, combat assaults and gunship support.

This history was printed in the 174th Aviation Company yearbook for 1969. History past the publish date would not be available here.

174th AHC - 14th AVN. BN.
UNIT – HISTORY

The 174th Aviation Company was activated at Fort Benning, Georgia on 1 October 1965. On March 15, 1966, the unit departed Ft Benning and arrived in Qui Nhon Harbor on 16 March 1966.

The unit was initially assigned to the central coastal area of Viet Nam. It was later moved, early in 1967, to Duc Pho; and there it continues to support the 11th Light Infantry Brigade and the Americal Divsion under the leadership of Major Virgil E. Blevins, Beeville, Texas.

The 174th Avn Co has three flight platoons. The "slicks" are the troop-carrying aircraft and are called the Dolphins; the gunships are called the Sharks and have special permission from General Robert Lee Scott Jr, Commander, Air Task Force, to use the famed shark-mouth of General Claire Chenault's Flying Tigers, painted on their aircraft. It boasts a motto of "Nothing Impossible" in carrying out it's mission to support the 11th Light Infantry Brigade. The Dolphins and Sharks have never failed to fulfill the promise of their motto in support of the Brigade and its three combat battalions.

The 174th has the best accident record in the Americal Division with not a single accident in the current fiscal year. The pilots have a combined total of 10,500 accident free flying hours, averaging 100 hours a day. In that time the 174th Avn Co has carried 75,00 pas-engers and 2500 tons of cargo. The soldier in the field that means a hot meal every day and a quick trip to the rear when stand down comes.

While compiling its record the 174th has flown nearly 50,000 sorties, including night combat assaults, emergency medivacs, and emergency ammo resupply. The "shark" gunships working on Charley while "Dolphins" bring in the much needed ammo is a sight long remembered by the defender on the ground. As an infantry company commander explains, "The sharks give a morale boost to us and scare the devil out of Charlie. After the Sharks shoot up an area you can count on it being quiet the rest of the night! It is all part of the job for the pilots and the men of the 174th.

VIRGIL E BLEVINS
Major Infantry
Commanding

[ADVA Historian Comments: The men of the newly formed 174th wrote a letter to obtain permission from General Claire Chenault to use the famous shark mouth paint scheme used by the "Flying Tigers" in WWII. They proposed to their commander the idea of using the Tiger Shark paint scheme for their gunships. They were refused. But the decision was overturned when they presented the letter they had from General Chenault.]

The Americal AO

After September 1969 the Marine boundary was shifted south to give the Marines LZ Baldy and LZ Ross. Then After April 1971 the Marines left I Corps, leaving the Americal to defend Da Nang and areas in Thua Thien and Quang Tri provinces.

This map was printed in the first issue of the Americal Division's "Southern Cross" newspaper in May 1968.

This is a bad photo of a 21″x21″ 3D Map made of Kham Duc. May 12, 1968 the base was evacuated. This became the site of the largest number of missing in action for a one day battle in Vietnam. The 14th Aviation battalion received honors for their participation in this battle that resulted in an estimated 1,200 NVA soldiers KIA.

Comments by ADVA Historian: I was a helicopter crewchief for one year and observed a few things in two years with an Americal Division Aviation Battalion. Pilots had to be highly skilled, but there were things that were really pushing the edge.

1. Gunships. Crazy how the Charlie models had to bounce and slide down the active to get airspeed up to transition to fly off. Spraying sparks from the skids, they would eventually stagger into the air.
2. Slicks. UH-1Ds were underpowered. On hot days we had to slide out over the edge of hilltops and basically free fall to make transition airspeed. The UH-1H helicopters with 300 more horsepower were a lot more tolerant especially for center of balance issues.
3. Night time flare missions and monsoon weather made difficult flying situations. Vertigo issues and getting lost over the South China Sea added a lot of stress.
4. There were issues with ground control systems that we trusted when we were lost in IFR situations. These resulted in pilots being guided into mountains or out to sea. The high number of incidents that occurred made me feel that the enemy had something affecting our systems that we were not aware of.
5. It was dangerous to be in the air after a couple weeks of our units not taking fire. The pilots would become careless and fly like they were stateside. Then after a flare up in action with helicopters in their unit shot up, the pilots were a bit more careful. Something like birds that are more careful following an attack on their flock.
6. I often have heard from pilots that the 105mm howitzers were not as effective as the 2.75 inch rockets. The 105mm rounds we were using were made in WWII with an old type of explosive. The 2.75 inch rockets had an explosive material that was 1,000 times more powerful as from WWII. Initially I had read an article that stated the 2.75 inch rockets were equivalent to a much larger 105mm round. It didn’t make sense until I found that the explosive was much more powerful.
7. I have seen more than one 2.75 inch rocket accidently fired off from parked helicopters in their revetments. I remember being told that the rockets only needed 1.5 volts to fire. Each time the rockets hit and penetrated a 55 gallon barrel filled with sand. It was a little amazing how the rocket accelerated right through the barrels. The barrels were mainly there to protect our helicopters from mortar and rocket atttacks. The impact with the barrel at least stopped the warhead from arming. On a couple of these incidents that was very fortunate. This was because the rockets landed very close to an open door leading to ammo dump for my Battalion.

The Americal Division Veteran's Association obtained the 50 months of Americal Division S2/S3 Daily Tactical Operations Center reports from the National Archives in a five year effort. An additional five years was spent transcribing the documents so they are computer searchable. These documents are currently being shared with many veterans. Copies reside online at the AmericalFoundation.ORG web-site and also at the Americal Division portal at the online Vietnam Archives maintained by Texas Tech. University. Although the information is there it takes a minimal computer skill to successfully search entries for the 174th Aviation Company. One problem is that the helicopter units are often not identified in the reporting. If they are identified they might be identified by the unit name, the call sign, or whatever.

The extraction of entries from May 1968, 1969, 1970 and 1971 follow:

These are the Americal Division S2/S3 entries for May 1968:

Unit	sub_unit	Date	Entry	Text
AVN	174AHC	680505	214	11th, C&C-3-1, BS764534 at 1745H eng 2 VC. Res: 2 VC KIA.
AVN	174AHC	680506	22	174th at Duc Pho rec'd 40 – 50 rds 60mm. Res 1 A/C damaged
AVN	174AHC	680506	27	14th Avn Bn, at Duc Pho the 174th had 1 A/C with major damage and 1 w/minor damage
AVN	174AHC	680506	28	11th, 174th Avn vic BS812383 at 0355H 3 Hueys damaged, 2 at 11th Avn and 1 at 174th Avn (See entry #61)
AVN	174AHC	680506	61	Div Avn, Maj Rector vic BS812383 at 0355H ref journal #28 should read: 1 x UH1D dest, 2 x UH1D hvy damage, 2 x UH1D minor damage, 1 x OH23 minor damage
AVN	174AHC	680509	24	Quang Ngai, CPT Cogglershall, vic BS6561 at 1000H (Cont) ARVN Bn (3/5th) in contact w/VC Co, will request gunships from 11th, will keep us informed. Passed to CG, CG approved. NW of Mo Duc. INFO
AVN	174AHC	680510	6	11th, C-4-21 vic BS838266 at 0715H PZ 0655H LZ Thunder. 1st lift – LZ BS822257 at 0715H LZ Cold. CA complete 0723H – LZ Cold – LZ BS838266
AVN	174AHC	680512	45	11th, CC 4/3 vic BS580802 at 1115H Helix shot down at BS578802 – CC 4/3 over area rec'd hvy sniper fire with 1 US WHA (E) shot in foot. Request gunships. Elements of C-4-3 being picked up to secure Helix. 2 slicks taking them out
AVN	174AHC	680512	77	4/3, C&C Acft, 1115H vic BS580802, eng'd 2 NVA evading. Res: 1 NVA KIA.
AVN	174AHC	680514	11	11th, CC-3/1 vic BS776461 at 0945H detained 4 VCS who were evading out of rear of village as friendly troops approached
AVN	174AHC	680515	10	11th, Gunship – 3/1 vic BS781471 at 0745H eng'd 1 VC evading. Res: 1 VC KIA
AVN	174AHC	680515	14	11th, CC-4/3 vic BS542782 at 0915H detained 1 VCS evading.
AVN	174AHC	680515	23	11th, CC-3-1 vic BS787467 at 1110H detained 2 VCS evading, evac to Bronco
AVN	174AHC	680516	10	11th 174Avn 4/3 vic BS495854 at 0730 engd 3 VC evading 3 VC KIA
AVN	174AHC	680516	11	11th 174 Avn 4/3 vic BS515860 at 0715 engd 4 VC evading 2 VC KIA
AVN	174AHC	680516	12	11th 174 4/3 vic BS523855 at 0720 engd 2 VC evading 2 VC KIA
AVN	174AHC	680516	39	11th C&C 4-3 vic BS692846 at 1342H engd 3 VC evading Res: 2 VC KIA still checking area
AVN	174AHC	680517	35	11th D-4-21 vic BS785307 at 1400H report being in heavy contact, 2xgunships have been dispatched: 1425: Neg report of assessment 1430: contact broken Follow up report: element received heavy A/W fire from adjacent hill, called for gunships, gunships arrived, fired rockets into suspected location of enemy, A/W fire stopped, element is now maneuvering around hill preparing to sweep area for assessment
AVN	174AHC	680520	11	11th CC-4-21, vic BS747375 at 0930H detained 1Xfemale in area where a lot of activity was going on
AVN	174AHC	680520	17	11th CC-4-21 vic BS747375 at 1030H detained 2 VC Suspects
AVN	174AHC	680521	23	11th TOC vic BS7060 A 174th, pilot saw an Air American Helicopter down. There was another Air American helicopter beside it. 11th Bde has a FAC above it and at this time there are no requirements for security 1200: 11th Bde reports they have helped repair the aircraft and it has departed
AVN	174AHC	680525	12	11th 4-21 at vic BS775491 at 0742H CC ship for 4-21 went down for mech failure. Ship is not secure at this time. Neg Cas. Gunships on way to their location. 0845H: CC ship has been lifted back to Bronco for repairs.
AVN	174AHC	680526	12	11th A-4-3 vic BS728824 at 0820H in contact receiving AQ fire, res 1 WHA (E). Gunships have been scrambled, contact Broke 0825H

AVN	174AHC	680527	88	196th, A-1-20, AT987315 at 1737 CC recd AW fire fm AT994314 while on resupply mission. Took 1 hit, but still flyable. Arty called.
AVN	174AHC	680529	4	11th Bde vic BS812383 at 0140H receiving hvy incoming fire, will give more details later, 0210 – 0207 stopped – recd in excess of 100 rds 82mm mtr, 3 WHA (E) 0220H stil quiet still on red alert, one bnkr spotted a few VC – fired mtr on their loc. no indication of ground atk. dam and cas unkown. 0245H going to yellow 13 WHA, 1 KHA, 2xdust off ships shot up 5xtents damaged or dest. a fire in tank farm, not under control at this time. 0312H 1xHU1D – Maj dam, Bde Avn 1xHU1D – minor, Bde Avn 1xH23 – minor, Bde Avn 1xHU1D—minor dam, 174th Avn CC 2xHU1D – Dust off, maj dam Following Additional Dam reported 1xHU1D dam, 1x01 Dest, 2x Tents Dest, 7xTents Dam, 6xFld Amb dam, 1xBull Dozer Dam, 2xFront loaders Dam, 1xA.F. Medivac radio dest, A&D Facility Dental clinc, 1xorderly room &1xsupply room dam, many trucks w/flat tires. 1 KHA & WHA (E) 18 WHA(M) 0650H 174th Avn rptd 1 KHA 16 WHA (M) 3 billets Dest. Total casualties 2 KHA 7 WHA (E) 34 WHA (M)
AVN	174AHC	680531	58	11th CC-4-3 vic BS560839 at 1549H obsvd 4 VC hiding in a hedge row engd. Res 2 VC KIA. aero scts checking area for other VC 1653H detained 1 VC WIA (See Entry #68)

These are the Americal Division S2/S3 entries for May 1969:

Unit	sub_unit	Date	**Entry**	Text
AVN	174AHC	690506	**8**	(U) 11th Bde, SP Decker. 174 Avn, BS833407 at 0640H eng 1xVC evading. Res: 1xVC KIA.
AVN	174AHC	690508	**46**	(U) 11th Bde, Sgt Winkler. Team Oregon extracted 081927H, vic BS504414, movement of all sides, sharks had 1 sec explo and 1 fire from rkts. ships took fire, 30-40 NVA at the base of OP, unk amt AK-47 fire, neg hits. FSE Cpt Williams.
AVN	174AHC	690510	**80**	(C) 11th Bde, Sgt Oaks, 174th Avn, BS7847 at 2106H. Eng 2 VC. Res: 2 VC KIA.
AVN	174AHC	690512	**63**	(C) 11th Bde, Sgt Winkler, 174th AVN, BS785428 at 0700H. 2xG/S shot down fm hv AWF. Res: 1xUS KIA (gunner), 1xUS WIA(E) (crew chief). 1xacft dest & 1xacft salvagable occured by 1-20 Inf.
AVN	174AHC	690512	**70**	(U) 11th Bde, Sgt Otto, 123d AVN. VR report. 1300H, BS781367, obsr movement. CC/1-20 rec AWF fm this area, neg assessment.
AVN	174AHC	690512	**100**	(C) 11th Bde Sgt Winkler, 174th AVN, BS830310 at 1710H. Rec SAF. Res 1xUS WIA(E). Acft rec unk No of hits at this time. Passed to AAE, CPT Mohenwiser.
AVN	174AHC	690515	**32**	(U) 11th Bde, Sgt Otto, CC/4-21, BS769349 at 1125H. Acft crashed, reason tail rotor failure. Res: CO C/4-21 NBW (E) (CPT Hopkins). D/O compl at 1140H. Extensive dam to acft. Acft secured. CO 4-21 has slight injury (LTC Hansen). Passed to AAE, MAJ White at 1130H. Notified: C/S Sgt Drosdick; G-3 SP Bachuam.
AVN	174AHC	690516	**23**	(U) 11th Bde, Sgt Otto, D/O/11th Bde, BS558328 at 1030H. (1) D/O acft shot down, G/s scrambled to area and on station. (2) 1116H, acft secured by gnd and air. Hook on way to evac acft. Res: 1xSF KIA & 3xSF WIA (E), neg cas to crew. (3) 1133H, CC/4-3 reports 1xcrewmember slightly injured & has picked up patients and crew. Notified: C/S, SP Johnson; G-3 LTC Lawrence; AAE, MAJ White.
AVN	174AHC	690516	**44**	(U) 11th Bde, Sgt Otto, Ref DJF entry #23. Acft extracted at 1330H. Hook took hv AWF w/NCD.
AVN	174AHC	690516	**52**	(U) 11th Bde, SP Sheen, 174th Avn, BS753375 at 1630H. Rec SAF. Res: took 1 hit resulting in 1xUS WIA (E) - door gunner.
AVN	174AHC	690517	**12**	(C) 11th Bde, Sgt Oakes, LZ Bronco at 0435H. Rec incoming. Res 8xrds 77RR, impact in 174th Avn Area. Res: 1xpo, truck dest or dam, power lines knocked out; neg cas.
AVN	174AHC	690517	**57**	(C) 11th Bde, SFC Winkler, CC/4-21 Inf, BS750400 at 1640H. Rec SAF. Res: 1xhit, 1xUS WIA (E), D/O compl 1645H.
AVN	174AHC	690521	**3**	(C) 11th Bde, Sgt Oaks, 174th Avn, BS812383, (en) BS82864238 at 0240H. LZ Bronco rec incoming 77mm RR (8xrds). Took direct hit on main maintenance tent. Res: 3xUH-1H hel combat loss & 1xC-model G/S heat dam. Also, 3xsmall maint tents/buildings dam. Res: 2xWIA (M) fr D, B/4-21. Notified: III MAF, Sgt Pachnieski.
AVN	174AHC	690523	**5**	(C) 11th Bde, Sgt Oaks, C/1-20, BS788425, (en) BS780420, BS781424, BS781427, BS780417 at 0115H. Rec 20xrds of RPG & 5xrds of 82mm mort fr the NE, in direction of ARVN camp. Requested G/S & flare. Res: 2xUS WIA (M). ARVN's also rec mort & RPG's w/NCD. Sharks got a couple of secondary explo while working area.
AVN	174AHC	690524	**79**	(C) 11th Bde, SP Sheen. (1) 241737H, E/1, BS845307 made contact, rec RR & RPG fire w/neg cas. (2) 1815H, D/3-1 was committed to action fr their fld loc to the area of interest and are in contact. 1815H, 1xG/S fr 174th Avn took hits. Res: 1xUS WIA (E) (pilot). G/S flew to LZ Bronco. 1800H, E/1, BS845307, rec AWF. Res: 1xUS WIA (E). D/O by CC/3-1 to LZ Bronco, compl at 1825H.
AVN	174AHC	690528	**43**	1300 (U) 11th Bde, SFC Winkler, CC/4-21, BS729328 at 1200H. Obsr 4xNVA KBA, in green unif.
AVN	174AHC	690531	**37**	(C) 11th Bde, Sgt Winkler, 174th Avn, BS8142 at 1440H. G/S rec grd fire. Res: 1xship rec several hits. 1xUS WIA (E), evac to LZ Bronco. Passed to AAE, CPT Mohrenweiser.

These are the Americal Division S2/S3 entries for May 1970:

Unit	sub_unit	Date	Entry	Text
AVN	174AHC	700503	51	11th Bde, Sgt Clough, D/4-21, BS842309 at 1500H. Avn elm (Sharks) obsr 1xVC evading into a tunnel. D Co (sqd) eng tunnel. Res: 1xVC KIA & 1xSony radio CIA.
AVN	174AHC	700507	26	11th Bde, Sgt Clough, CC/1-20, BS730400 at 0935H. Dtn 6xVN females; 4xw/ID & 2xw/neg ID. Extracted to LZ Bronco.
AVN	174AHC	700507	102	11th Bde, CPT Robertson, 174th Avn, BS660552 at 1855H, eng UNSEF VC. Res: 4xVC KB G/S. 1xAK-47 CIA. Conf by 4-4 ARVN.
AVN	174AHC	700508	12	(DELAYED) 11th Bde, CPT Robinson, OP #1, BS517799 at 070630H May 70. ARVN elm fr OP #1 swept the area of contact around the perimeter. Res: Fnd 3xVC KIA (credited to 174th Avn), 2xVC KBA (credited to D/6-11 Arty) & 2xVC KIA (credited to ARVN unit).
AVN	174AHC	700508	149	11th Bde, Sp Lichtey, B/1-20, BS817407 at 1755H, VN male came into NDP & said VC was in hootch nearby who wanted to Chieu Hoi. CC Acft at 1825H picked up Chieu Hoi & evac to Bronco. Indiv was wearing green unif & appeared to be well fed. He turned in his M-1 Cbn. NFI.
AVN	174AHC	700509	94	11th Bde, Sp Lichtey, 174th Avn, BS500605 at 1300H, 1xUH-1C rec hvy AWF (.30 cal). It took an unknown number of hits in tail boom & under carriage. Altitude 2000'. Neg cas. Acft is total loss. Crew extracted at 1330H.
AVN	174AHC	700511	50	11th Bde, Sgt Clough, 174th Avn, BS579632 at 1330H. Obsr & eng 5-10xNVA in green unif w/unk res. En rtn fire w/neg cas & neg hits. C/3-1 made a CA into the area & dtn 1xMAF. Extracted DET to Nghia Hanh.
AVN	174AHC	700511	53	11th Bde, Sgt Clough, 174th Avn, BS578629 at 1525H. G/S eng UNSEF. Res: 1xVC KIA.
AVN	174AHC	700511	61	11th Bde, Sgt Ward, 11th Bde Avn & 174th Avn, BS605590 at 1700H. Eng & killed 2xVC. (1xcredited to 11th Bde Avn & the other to 174th Avn).
AVN	174AHC	700513	47	11th Bde, Sgt Clough, 174th Avn, BS582651 at 0745H. CA acft rec SAF. Res: 1xUS WIA(E) (pilot). D/O compl at 0800H. Ntfy: AAE, CPT Mikesell.
AVN	174AHC	700513	61	11th Bde, CPT Shea, 174th Avn, BS599629 at 1130H, UH-1H going into A/3-1 loc to extract wounded, rec SAF. Acft was shot down. Res: 2xUS KIA. Acft is secured & cannot be extracted due to en situation. Crew Chief & Door Gunner were both KIA by SAF. Ntfy: C/S, COL Hume; G-3, LTC Stottle; AAE, CPT Mikesell; XXIV Corps, MAJ Hof at 1225H.
AVN	174AHC	700513	63	11th Bde, CPT Shea, A/3-1, BS599629 at 0930H. A D/O UH-1H fr 44th Med Bde rec hv SAF while landing into A/3-1 loc. Acft took unk amt of hits. Res: 1xUS WIA(E) (fr 44th Med Bde). Msn was not compl. Ntfy AAE, CPT Mikesell.
AVN	174AHC	700514	47	(DELAYED) 11th Bde, Sgt Clough, 174th Avn, BS595605 at 131130H-132000H May 70. 3/4 ARVN has credited 174th Avn w/26xNVA KIA as a res of support action. Ntfy XXIV Corps, MAJ Hof at 1705H. (See DSJ Entry#75 14MAY70 and DSJ Entry# 49 23MAY70)
AVN	174AHC	700514	75	Sgt Ward, REF: DJF entry #47, change 26xNVA to 20xNVA.

AVN	174AHC	700514	97	Quang Ngai, SFC Ried, AO Req. DTG: 160600H-161800H May 70. Purpose: Eagle Flight. #66: Fr BS434780, E to BS450780, S to BS450767, along river to Bs443760, along river toBS434780. Appr: 11th Bde, CPT Shea; G-3, MAJ Hillier. Passed to Quang Ngai, Sgt Shifflet.
AVN	174AHC	700515	27	11th Bde, Sgt Clough, B/3-1, BS593626 at 1115H. Fnd 4xNVA KIA (wearing green unif), 2xB-40 rkts, 1xAK-47 mag & 3xChicom H/gren. Credit given to 174th Avn for kills.
AVN	174AHC	700515	34	11th Bde, Sgt Clough, 174th Avn, BS590500 at 0700H. Obsr & eng 1xVC. Res: 1xVC KIA. At 0730H, BS605505: Obsr 1xplat of VC in the open. Eng w/G/S w/unk res.
AVN	174AHC	700517	21	11th Bde, CPT Shea, 174th Avn, BS785425 at 0855H. While on approach to an LZ, acft rec 5xrds of SAF w/NCD. Did not eng en because it is in RD area.
AVN	174AHC	700519	85	(DELAYED) 11th Bde, CPT Robertson, D/3-1, BS569628 at 181700H May 70, fnd 1xVC KIA, dead 3-4xweeks. Kill credited to 174th Avn.
AVN	174AHC	700523	49	11th Bde, CPT Shea. Ref DJF entry #47 14 May 70. Add: 12NVA KIA. Total: 38xNVA KIA (BS595605). Ntfy XXIV Corps, MAJ Hof at 1425H.
AVN	174AHC	700523	90	11th Bde, CPT McNeal, 174th Avn, BS496406 at 1550H, on approach to LZ for LRRP insertion, acft rec unk cal AW fire w/4xhits in tail. Res: Acft crashed, then recovered; neg cas. Bnkrs on NW end of LZ.
AVN	174AHC	700525	9	(DELAYED) 11th Bde, Sp Wiley, 174th Avn at 242330H May 70. Vic BS7759, 7756, 7656, 7656, 7657, 7658, 7456, 7556, 7558: PSYOPS acft rec 30xcal MG SA & AWF in 10-15xrd bursts w/neg hits & neg cas. Unable to eng w/arty due to built up area.
AVN	174AHC	700525	124	11th Bde, CPT McNeal, LRRP Tm Michigan, 0945H, Tm at BS458457, heard warning shot SE of loc; 1150H, obsr 4xVC by campfire, eng w/arty w/unk res; 1410H, obsr 4xVC/NVA mov S to N along trail at BS472445, joined by 28xothers; G/S fr 174th Avn on station & expended w/unk res at 1450H; 1630H, heard warning shots fr 100m NE; 1646H, Tim in contact w/9xVC/NVA. Req extraction; 1730H, Tm extracted fr BS454454 fr hot PZ, extraction acft rec SAFw/2xhits, neg cas. Cancel Box #19 & #20: CPT Nelson. Ntfy: 11th Bde, Sp Lichtey.
AVN	174AHC	700526	36	11th Bde, Sgt Zimmer, 3/4 ARVN, BS646572 at 0845H. Fnd 4xNVA KBG/S. Credit given to 174th Avn. Also fnd 10xpacks. (See DSJ# 79 27MAY70)
AVN	174AHC	700526	96	11th Bde, Sgt Zimmer, 174th Avn at 1430H. While on a VR, at BS619407 & BS620407: Obsr cam shelters, blue unif, 4'x4' concrete structures w/smoke stacks & many signs of recent activity.
AVN	174AHC	700526	110	11th Bde, Sgt Ward, 3/4 ARVN, BS634584 at 1650H. Obsr 1xplat of NVA wearing green unif moving down a trail. Eng w/SAF. Res: 8xNVA KIA, 1xAK-47, 1xM-1 cbn, 7xpacks, 10xB-40 rkts, 25xChicom H/gren, & 15x57mm RR rd all CIA. Wpns & ammo extracted to LZ Dragon. (Info only) (See DSJ# 78 27MAY70)
avn	174AHC	700526	111	11th Bde, Sgt Ward, C/1-20, BS735432 at 1725H. 174th Avn CC for 1-20 Inf, dtn 1xVN male 45xyrs old. Extracted to LZ Bronco.

AVN	174AHC	700526	114	11th Bde, Sp Lichtey, C/1-82, BS719545 at 1815H. 174th Avn UH-1H obsr & directed arty on 1xVC. Res: 1xVC KBA.
AVN	174AHC	700527	78	11th Bde, Sgt Ward, Ref DJF entry #110, 26 May 70. Change 3/4 ARVN to read 174th Avn. Add: 4xNVA KBG/S. Ntfy C/S, COL Hume.
AVN	174AHC	700529	4	(DELAYED) 11th Bde, Sp Lichtey, 174th Avn, BS6857 & 6957 at 282345H May 70. PSYOPS ops Hel rec gnd fire (30xrds of SA & AWF) w/neg hits. Did not eng due to prox of populated area. Alt: 1000xft. Speed: 60xknots.
AVN	174AHC	700529	64	11th Bde, Sp Thornton, R/4-21, BS877342 at 1215H. 174th G/S obsr 4xMAM evad into structure, R/4-21 inserted & snatched 2xMAM w/ID's. Pho Hiep (V) villagers said ID's were false. Extr to LZ Bronco.
AVN	174AHC	700529	85	11th Bde, Sgt Clough, 174th Avn, BS608502 at 1621H. Rec SAF fr the gnd w/2xhits w/neg cas. Alt: 150xft. Speed: 75-80xknots. Ntfy AAE, CPT Fisher.
AVN	174AHC	700530	45	196th Bde, Sp Goodfriend, 174th Avn, BT280120 at 1235H. UH-1H rec 4-5xrds of SAF w/neg hits. Alt: 800xft. Speed: 60xknots. G/S eng the area w/unk res. Ntfy AAE, CPT Sturdevant.
AVN	174AHC	700530	69	196th Bde, Sp Fahnstock, 174th Avn, BT118230 at 1630H. Obsr 4xVC w/neg packs or wpns. Eng w/AWF. Res: 4xVC evaded into woodline.

These are the Americal Division S2/S3 entries for May 1971:

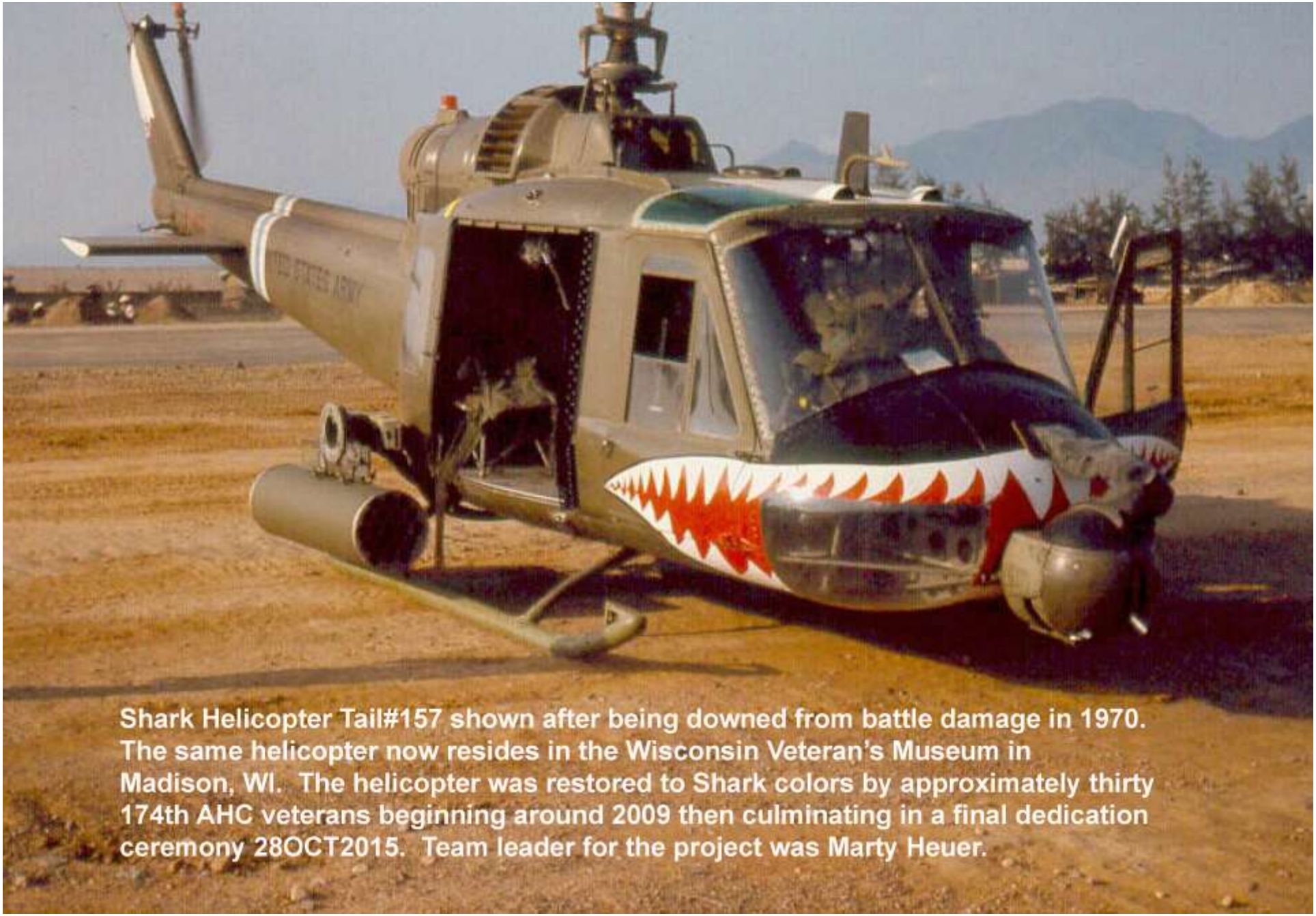
Unit	sub_unit	Date	Entry	Text
AVN	174AHC	710506	6	CLDC, CPT Miller, 174 Avn, 0055H. Rec fire fr BT15080 w/NCD. Neg rtn fire. Checked area w/neg res. Checking area where Tower #34 had rec gas.
AVN	174AHC	710506	24	198th Bde, Sp Small, 174 Avn, BS415905, (en) BS410895 at 0735H. UH-1C rec unk amt SAF at 200' and 80k w/2xhits w/neg cas. Arty fired w/unk res. C/1-6 swept area w/neg res.
AVN	174AHC	710506	42	AAE, CPT White, (en) BT464145 at 1555H. Maint acft fr 174 Avn obsr 15xVN w/AK47 and mort rds dressed in civ clothing. G/S enroute. At 1615H G/S & maint acft rtn to CHL due to weather. PF83 sent by Ly Tin to recon area, VN Navy ship also in vic. At 1710H PF83 reports 15xVN are PF on amb. Ntfy: CLDC, Sgt Nelson.
AVN	174AHC	710510	64	11th Bde, Sgt Cunia, 174 Avn, (en) BS475757 at 1645H. Leaving R/S LZ rec approx 15 rds AWF w/NCD at 50' and 100k. Obsr 2xpersonnel. Eng w/M60 MG w/unk res.
AVN	174AHC	710520	69	11th Bde, Sgt Cunia, 4-21. Req tracker dog tm. Time: 210630H May. Pick up at 174 Avn pad. Passed to 63 CTT, LT Ellis. Appr: G3, MAJ Cunningham. Ntfy: 11th Bde, Sgt Moore; AAE, CPT White.
AVN	174AHC	710521	40	11th Bde. CPT Cummings, 178 AHSC, BS918164, 211015H-1215H. 5xsorties were flown, 4xwere on target with a total of 72x55 gal drums burning 80% of the target area. 1xsortie had mechanical difficulties at 1120H at BS857360, load was dropped consisting of 9x55 gal drums. Permission rec to dest on ground. G/S fr 174 Avn at 1135H dest the 9xdrums.
AVN	174AHC	710524	17	11th Bde, Sgt Smith, RF711, PF134-129, BS570631, (en) BS574621, 240530H. PF's eng est 1xreinforced VC Co w/SAF. VC evad S. Arty fired at BS572617, rec SAF, AWF fr evad VC Co. Res: 2xRF WIA(E). Arty fired, G/S expended 1230H. RF711 sweeping area rec AWF, SAF. Arty fired G/S 174 Avn on station 1305H, at 1350H rec SAF at 800', 80k, NCD. Eng area.1628H contact broken. 2d ARVN Cav is sweeping w/RF711. Swept w/neg res.
AVN	174AHC	710524	83	11th Bde, Sgt Moore, BS570631, 241830H. Rec unk amt 82mm mort, 60mm mort, B40 rkt fire. 174 Avn G/S on sta 1905H. Exp on sus en loc w/unk res. Res: 7xRF KIA, 19xPF WIA(E), (15xD/O to Quang Ngai, 4xD/O to Bronco). 1xM113A1 dest by mort fire. (Info only) Ntfy: G3, CPT Verga.
AVN	174AHC	710528	83	11th Bde, LT McGruder, B/4-21, (en) BS789312, 281800H. In NDP obsr 40-50xpers w/packs & wpns mov NE. Eng w/arty req G/S. 174 AHC G/S on sta 1815H. G/S obsr 7xVC in blk w/packs & wpns, eng w/rkts, 40mm, & M-60. Res: 3xVC KB G/S. 1830H, broke sta to rearm. 1900H, rtn & obsr 10-15 VC evad E along ridgeline, eng w/rkts & M-60. Res: 10xVC KB G/S. Broke sta at 1940H. Compl sweep of area w/be made tomorrow. Ntfy: XXIV Corps, LT Meiswander.
AVN	174AHC	710529	40	11th Bde, Sgt Smith, HQ. EOD Req. Time: 290615H May. Pick up: 174 Avn Ops. Rpt to 11th Bde TOC. Reason: fd what appears to be M-16A1 (bouncing betty) on Montezuma near search light pos. Passed to 133 EOD, Sp Krammer. Appr: G3, CPT Parrish. Ntfy: 11th Bde, Sgt Smith; AAE, CPT White.

Men who lost their lives in service with the 174th Aviation Company in Vietnam.

lname	fname	suf	rank	mos	age	incident	casdate	event
BAGGETT	WAYNE		SP4	67N2F	21	04/11/1971	11-Apr-71	NDP NEAR VAN XUAN, SONG VE VALLEY 20 KM SOUTH OF QUANG NGAI 19710411
BELL	HARRISON		SP5	67N2F	22	07/15/1970	15-Jul-70	S/A FIRE 9 KM WEST OF QUANG NGAI CITY 19700715
BLACKMON	DENNIS		WO	062B	23	10/19/1967	19-Oct-67	UH-1D 64-13555 ENGINE FAILURE 5 MILES WEST OF DUC PHO AAF
BOZINSKI	JOHN		WO	100B	22	08/15/1969	15-Aug-69	UH-1H 66-00993 4 KM SSW FSB SAN JUAN HILL; 7 KM ENE OF BA TO
BRAM	AARON		CPT	1981	30	12/17/1966	17-Dec-66	UH-1D 65-09605 DURING TRAINING FLT VIC LANE AAF, QUI NHON
BROWN	RICHARD		MAJ	1980	34	03/11/1969	17-Mar-69	75MM ARTY FIRE AT LZ BRONCO (DUC PHO AFLD) 19690311
BURCH	STEVEN		WO	101B	19	02/25/1971	05-Mar-71	UH-1 68-15403 NEAR LZ SCOTCH 12 KM N-NW OF CA LU AFLD
CARTER	JAMES		WO	062B	21	06/13/1968	13-Jun-68	MID-AIR UH-1D/O-2A 12 KM NE OF QUANG NGAI CITY 19680613
CONTARINO	DONALD		CPL	67N20	19	08/14/1969	14-Aug-69	MORTAR ATTACK TRA BONG SF CAMP, 15 KM N-NW OF HA THANH AFLD 19690814
CREAMER	CHARLES	3RD	CWO	100B	24	11/28/1970	28-Nov-70	HIT MOUNTAIN 3 KM N-NW OF MINH LONG AFLD DURING NIGHT FLARE MISSION 19701128
DAVIS	RAY		WO	062B	21	03/01/1969	01-Mar-69	LANDING ACCIDENT ON PEAK OF HILL 508 9 KM WEST OF MO DUC AFLD 19690301
DEL VALLE	SANCHEZ		SP4	67N20	20	08/15/1969	15-Aug-69	UH-1H 66-00993 4 KM SSW FSB SAN JUAN HILL; 7 KM ENE OF BA TO
DICKINSON	THOMAS		SP4	67N20	24	06/24/1967	24-Jun-67	MORTAR ATTACK, LZ BRONCO (DUC PHO) 19670624
DUCOMMUN	RONALD		SP4	67A1F	19	11/15/1969	15-Nov-69	UH-1H 68-15661 9 KM E-NE OF HA THANH AFLD
ERB	PATRICK		WO	100B	21	02/25/1971	15-Mar-71	UH-1 68-15403 NEAR LZ SCOTCH 12 KM N-NW OF CA LU AFLD
FIELD	GARY		CPL	67M20	20	11/28/1970	28-Nov-70	HIT MOUNTAIN 3 KM N-NW OF MINH LONG AFLD DURING NIGHT FLARE MISSION 19701128
FOSTER	DOYLE		SFC	67Z50	34	03/25/1971	25-Mar-71	QUANG TRI AFLD 19710325
GENTRY	ROBERT		WO	100B	21	02/08/1971	08-Feb-71	HIT IN FLIGHT DEPARTING LZ HOTEL 15 KM W-SW OF KHE SANH AFLD 19710208
GIBBONS	JOHN		CPT	1981	23	02/12/1970	12-Feb-70	HIT IN HEAD BY SNIPER DURING CBT ASLT IN HOT LZ 4 KM NW OF DUC PHO 19700212
GOODNIGHT	PETER		CWO	100B	20	10/11/1970	11-Oct-70	ACCIDENTALLY SHOT WHILE REMOVING MACHINE GUN FROM DOWNED HELO 11 KM WEST OF QUANG NGAI AFLD 19701011
GRAHAM	JOHNNIE	JR	PFC	67A1F	19	08/15/1969	15-Aug-69	UH-1H 66-00993 4 KM SSW FSB SAN JUAN HILL; 7 KM ENE OF BA TO

GUENTZEL	LARRY		SP4	67N20	19	06/24/1967	24-Jun-67	MORTAR ATTACK, LZ BRONCO (DUC PHO) 19670624
HARRIS	ALLAN		WO	100B	22	08/29/1971	29-Aug-71	COVERING MEDEVAC FOR 3/5 ARVN, 6 KM S-SE OF QUE SON 19710829
HARRIS	EDWARD		WO	062B	25	03/01/1969	01-Mar-69	LANDING ACCIDENT ON PEAK OF HILL 508 9 KM WEST OF MO DUC AFLD 19690301
HENKE	RICHARD		WO	100B	20	05/13/1970	13-May-70	UH-1C 66-00662 ENGINE FAILURE 1 KM SW OF MO DUC AFLD
HODGKIN	FOREST		SP4	67N20	22	11/15/1969	15-Nov-69	UH-1H 68-15661 9 KM E-NE OF HA THANH AFLD
ISAAC	JAMES	JR	PFC	67A1F	19	05/12/1969	12-May-69	2 UH-1C SHOT DOWN 5 KM N-NW OF DUC PHO 19690512
JARRELL	SIDNEY		SP4	67A1F	18	05/13/1970	13-May-70	UH-1C 66-00662 ENGINE FAILURE 1 KM SW OF MO DUC AFLD
JAUREGUI	DAVID		1LT	1981	26	11/28/1970	28-Nov-70	HIT MOUNTAIN 3 KM N-NW OF MINH LONG AFLD DURING NIGHT FLARE MISSION 19701128
JOHNS	ERNEST		SP4	67N2F	25	05/13/1970	13-May-70	UH-1C 66-00662 ENGINE FAILURE 1 KM SW OF MO DUC AFLD
JOHNSON	JERRY		WO	062B	21	06/13/1968	13-Jun-68	MID-AIR UH-1D/O-2A 12 KM NE OF QUANG NGAI CITY 19680613
JOHNSTON	RONALD		1LT	1981	24	03/12/1967	12-Mar-67	UH-1D 65-09938 LANDING ACCIDENT IN THE NINH HOA AREA
MC COY	CARL	JR	SP5	67N20	19	05/29/1968	29-May-68	MORTAR ATTACK ON DUC PHO AF 19680529
MILTNOVICH	EMIL		CPL	67A1F	18	09/24/1971	25-Sep-71	HIT IN PICK-UP ZONE 12 KM NW OF TRA BONG CITY 19710924
MILTON	GARY		SP4	67N2F	21	06/13/1968	13-Jun-68	MID-AIR UH-1D/O-2A 12 KM NE OF QUANG NGAI CITY 19680613
MIZER	LENTON		WO	100B	20	07/15/1970	15-Jul-70	S/A FIRE 9 KM WEST OF QUANG NGAI CITY 19700715
PADILLA	GARY		CPL	67A1F	21	03/03/1971	03-Mar-71	SHOT DOWN AT LZ LOLO 26 KM WEST OF KHE SANH AFLD 19710303
PATRICK	DEREK		CPL	67A10	21	05/13/1970	14-May-70	ENGAGEMENT 9 KM SOUTH OF QUANG NGAI AFLD 19700513
POWELL	JAMES	JR	SP4	67U20	20	11/28/1970	28-Nov-70	HIT MOUNTAIN 3 KM N-NW OF MINH LONG AFLD DURING NIGHT FLARE MISSION 19701128
REGALADO	RICARDO		WO	100B	19	11/15/1969	15-Nov-69	UH-1H 68-15661 9 KM E-NE OF HA THANH AFLD
REGIER	RAYMOND		CPL	67A1F	20	02/05/1970	05-Feb-70	FELL FROM HELO WHILE ASSISTING SWIMMERS IN TROUBLE 2 KM E-NE OF CHU LAI AFLD 19700205
ROGERS	CHARLES		CPT	1981	29	03/11/1969	11-Mar-69	75MM ARTY FIRE AT LZ BRONCO (DUC PHO AFLD) 19690311
SCHMIDT	DENIS		SP5	67N2F	21	05/12/1969	16-May-69	2 UH-1C SHOT DOWN 5 KM N-NW OF DUC PHO 19690512
SCHULZE	DAVID		PFC	67N20	20	03/01/1969	01-Mar-	LANDING ACCIDENT ON PEAK OF HILL 508 9 KM WEST OF

							69	MO DUC AFLD 19690301
SEASTROM	WILLIAM		SP5	67N20	28	12/17/1966	17-Dec-66	UH-1D 65-09605 DURING TRAINING FLT VIC LANE AAF, QUI NHON
SELKEY	DONALD	JR	SP4	76S20	19	12/22/1969	22-Dec-69	SHOT SELF WITH M-16 AT LZ BRONCO, DUC PHO 19691222
SHEFFIELD	FREDRICK		WO	100B	22	05/13/1970	13-May-70	UH-1C 66-00662 ENGINE FAILURE 1 KM SW OF MO DUC AFLD
SHIELDS	ROBERT	2ND	WO	100B	26	08/15/1969	15-Aug-69	UH-1H 66-00993 4 KM SSW FSB SAN JUAN HILL; 7 KM ENE OF BA TO
TEWS	HENRY		CWO	062B	22	12/29/1968	29-Dec-68	UH-1D 66-16811 MECH FAILURE 1 KM W-NW OF MINH LONG AFLD
TICE	WAYNE		SP5	67N2F	20	11/19/1968	19-Nov-68	4/21 INF C&C HELO HIT 14 KM WEST OF MINH LONG AFLD 19681119
VANDIVER	FRED		SP5	67N20	23	07/15/1970	15-Jul-70	S/A FIRE 9 KM WEST OF QUANG NGAI CITY 19700715
WEAMER	ALLEN		PFC	11B2F	19	06/13/1968	13-Jun-68	MID-AIR UH-1D/O-2A 12 KM NE OF QUANG NGAI CITY 19680613
WILSON	ADAM		WO	100B	21	11/15/1969	15-Nov-69	UH-1H 68-15661 9 KM E-NE OF HA THANH AFLD
ZARINA	DONN		SP4	67N20	21	03/01/1969	01-Mar-69	LANDING ACCIDENT ON PEAK OF HILL 508 9 KM WEST OF MO DUC AFLD 19690301



Shark Helicopter Tail#157 shown after being downed from battle damage in 1970. The same helicopter now resides in the Wisconsin Veteran's Museum in Madison, WI. The helicopter was restored to Shark colors by approximately thirty 174th AHC veterans beginning around 2009 then culminating in a final dedication ceremony 28OCT2015. Team leader for the project was Marty Heuer.

Model of tail# 157
given to Wisconsin
Veteran's Museum
in Madison, WI
by ADVA,